

NUM to discuss draft deal to end strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A draft peace agreement to end the 46-week miners' strike has taken shape during informal talks between the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board.

The 12-point tentative basis for a negotiated return to work will be put to the national executive today. The signs are that it will be accepted.

TUC leaders were given a clear hint yesterday that the strike could be over within days, and Mr Norman Willis, the general secretary, disclosed that there were positive points during the talks between NUM leaders and the coal board on Monday.

Minutes of that meeting drawn up by the board will be given to miners' leaders this morning. The document suggests that talks might resume early next week and be concluded swiftly, rather than go through the long, drawn-out charade of last autumn.

The most important section of the minutes discloses that the two sides have talked about closing pits on the grounds that they have become uneconomic. The board, led by its industrial relations director, Mr Ned Smith, said that any deal would have to recognize that mines would close for reasons other than safety or exhaustion of reserves. He pointed out that this happened many times in recent years.

Th NUM, while reiterating its longstanding opposition to the shutdown of any colliery on economic grounds, accepted that this had happened. The minutes record that the difficulty between the two sides may be confined to how this third category of colliery closures should be defined.

That is the first sign that the NUM might be prepared to enter a formal agreement recognizing that closures may have to take place on economic grounds, though it is not clear from the minutes whether such an undertaking is available at this stage. The minutes say only that there ought to be a further discussion on how the de-facto situation on earlier pit closures could be phrased in any settlement.

Inherent in the draft proposals contained in the paper is an assumption that the NUM could call off or delay its January 30 special delegate conference called to expel the 30,000-strong Nottinghamshire area.

NUM leaders who believe that the draft propositions establish a basis for a resumption of substantive negotiations will argue this morning that this should take precedence over any internal union argument.

It has been agreed between the union and coal board that contacts will be resumed today after the executive has considered the prospects for a deal. Both sides have agreed that negotiations could begin next week and ought to be brought to a swift conclusion.

Mr Michael McGahey, Communist vice-president of the NUM, said yesterday that talks would also involve the pit deputies' union Nacods, and the colliery managers, BACM, in a new look in the industry.

The industry involving tripartite negotiations between the union, the board, and the Government.

The conciliatory tone of his assessment was being interpreted last night as a clear indication that the NUM desperately wants talks with the coal board and that nothing is sacrosanct.

Mr Willis said: "The talks on Monday, and the developments since, could just conceivably be a basis for talks and achieve an honourable settlement, if every body works at it. It will need a good deal of hard work."

Mr Michael Eaton, the Board's chief spokesman, cancelled interviews with journalists yesterday, officially because the Board wanted to see what happened at today's NUM national executive.

The TUC made it clear yesterday that if the Nottinghamshire miners broke away from the NUM, the new organization would not be recognized by the national labour movement.

Mr Willis said: "Any split in the NUM can only be to the long-term detriment of all miners who ever worked, and regardless of their views on the current dispute. It would also damage very seriously the prospects for re-establishing good industrial relations in the industry long after the current dispute ends."

The coal board said that 382 strikers returned to work yesterday, bringing the total for the week to 2,900 compared with last week's total of 2,370.

Yorkshire revolt collapses, page 2
Parliament, page 4



Lord Home of the Hirsel and the Earl of Stockton in the House of Lords yesterday during its first televised coverage. (Photograph: Harry Kerr. More photographs: back page).

Parties unite to stop Britain sinking, Stockton urges

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

A call for the political parties to put aside their differences, and perhaps even come together in a national government, was made yesterday by the Earl of Stockton, formerly Mr Harold Macmillan, in a speech strongly critical of the Government's handling of the economy.

Lord Stockton, Conservative Prime Minister from 1957 to 1963, used the occasion of the first television broadcast from the House of Lords to urge Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and her colleagues and rivals, to stop "futile, academic economic arguments" and return to the reality of the third industrial revolution, which was leaving the British economy behind those of Taiwan and North and South Korea.

They must make a new determined and united effort, putting party aside as far as possible, if Britain were not to go slowly down like a great ship, Lord Stockton said.

"There must be parties, of course, but there can be co-operation - maybe even national governments", he said. Then historians would describe the end of this century not as the beginning of the decline and fall of Britain but as the beginning of a glorious renaissance.

Lord Stockton, who will be 91 next month, showed complete command of the House, as in his maiden speech in the Lords last November. He was also unconstrained yesterday by the convention that a first speech should be uncontroversial.

In return, ministers who heard his speech, or reports of it, felt at liberty to criticize him for being reader to carp at the Government than to offer coherent advice.

He gave the Government credit for one thing only, and even then his language was qualified, for "sacrificing almost everything to stopping runaway inflation, which would have ruined us". But it had been at very high cost, he added.

His only prescription, wittily offered, was that the Government should increase its borrowing as the US Government had done, to stimulate production.

It was said that the Americans had too much debt, but how could you have production unless you borrowed the money to produce? You could not produce first and then borrow the money; that was not what his grandfather - founder of a famous publishing house - had done.

Although his mockery was always light in tone, he was scornful of many of the Government's beliefs and policies.

Lord Stockton commended the wisdom of President Reagan in having exiled all the monetarists, who unhappily for Britain had been received with the courtesy always extended to refugees in the universities, and even in Downing Street. They had diverted our attention from what was really happening.

He had the House laughing at the Government spokesman, Lord Gowrie, who had spoken of the increase in exports. "Of course, if you halve the value of your money, you ought to be able to export", he remarked.

Parliament, page 4
Sparkling cast, back page

Kidnappers demand £4m for Springer

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The 19-year-old son of Herr Axel Springer, the West German newspaper magnate, has been kidnapped from his Swiss boarding school and his captors are demanding a ransom of Dm15 million (£4 million).

The grandson, Herr Sven Axel Springer, who also has the alias Sven Simon, was abducted from a school at Zuz in the canton of Chur on Sunday night. His mother, who lives in Munich, is divorced from the eldest son of Herr Axel Springer, the right-wing publisher of Die Welt and the mass circulation newspaper Bild.

The West German News agency said the young Springer's mother received eight phone calls on Tuesday with a tape recording on which her son said: "No press, no police or I will be killed." He then relayed the ransom demand.

The young Springer was last seen at his school on Sunday evening after writing a letter in his pyjamas. He apparently then went to make a telephone call. Police and the Springer press have urgently requested all this information to be kept secret so as not to endanger the young man's life.

Although Herr Springer is often the target of left wing demonstrators it is not thought that the kidnapping is connected to the recent wave of terrorist attacks by the Red Army Faction.

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What the modern spy owes to the photocopier

Opec threat hits shares and pound

By Sarah Hogg and David Young

The pound dropped to a new closing low of 70.7, the sterling index in London yesterday, and the stock market knocked 20.8 points off the FT 30-share index, on firmer reports that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will cut its market price next week.

Saudi Arabian newspaper reports that Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister and dominant member of the Opec cartel, would recommend a \$2.50 price cut were later denied by Opec's deputy secretary general, Dr Fadhil Al-Chalabi. But changes which will effectively cut the market price by \$1.25 from today's \$29 a barrel now seem inevitable.

Sterling closed at \$1.1125 in London, its lowest since its previous closing low, but sank briefly to \$1.1050 in early New York trading, further depressed by reports that the Reagan Administration was lukewarm about the new agreement among leading central banks to intervene in the foreign exchange markets. The pound later recovered as the dollar rose.

Earlier sterling reached a record low against the mark. In London, the sterling index dropped from 71.3 to 70.7, just above the level of 70.6 touched briefly on the morning of January 14, before the Government took the crisis measure of re-introducing Minimum Lending Rate at 12 per cent. The pound ended below the closing

low of 70.8 recorded on that day. Yesterday the three-month inter-bank rate, the key to bank interest rates, rose to 12 1/2 per cent, putting further upward pressure on bank base rates.

On the Stock Exchange, the 20.8 point fall in the 30-share index was larger than on January 14, and added to an extraordinary pattern of switch-back movements during the present account. Profit-taking after recent rises combined with worries about the pound and interest rates to take the index back down to 103.7.

As the financial markets throughout Europe reacted to oil price rumours, there were said to be some brief signs of support for the pound by the Bank of England, and light intervention against the dollar by the German central bank.

In the United States, the Treasury Secretary-elect, Mr James Baker, confused the markets by saying that "so far as he knew" there had been no intervention by the Federal Reserve Board, America's central bank.

The early reports from Saudi Arabia attributed to Sheikh Yamani a statement that the Opec committee which has been investigating Opec price differentials would recommend a \$2.50 price cut to the main meeting of its 13-member governments in Geneva next week.

US records, page 15
Kenneth Fleet, page 15
Market report, page 17

MPs are blamed for Lords pit protest

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party was again in turmoil over the miners' strike last night after the party's Chief Whip condemned the action of Labour MPs in taking a group of miners into the House of Lords, where they later staged a demonstration during the first televised debate.

About 20 miners wearing yellow badges on their lapels stood up in the public gallery early in the debate and began chanting "Coal not Dole". They resisted attempts by attendants and police to remove them and went on chanting for some time.

Finally one of them said, "All right has that's enough", and they filed out. Four of them were detained by police until half an hour after the house rose for the night.

The demonstrators, it emerged last night, had been taken into the lobby of the Lords by left-wing Labour MPs, who included Mr Jeremy Corbyn and Miss Joan Maynard.

They jumped the queue of people waiting to go in to hear the debate in the public gallery. Although the security staff apparently feared a demonstration there was nothing they could do to stop the miners because they were accompanied by MPs.

Mr Michael Cocks, the Chief Whip, said last night that he was concerned by reports that MPs had been involved. "It is political opportunism of the worst kind. It is a highly counter-productive thing to do", he said.

Mr Corbyn, MP for Islington North, said later: "I have no criticisms of what they did but I did not know they were going to do it". Miss Maynard said: "We did not want them to be discriminated against just because they were miners."

Chernenko arms pledge

President Chernenko vowed yesterday that the Soviet Union would approach the new arms talks in a constructive spirit. The United States has suggested March 5 as the starting date and Geneva as the venue (Our Foreign Staff writes).

President Reagan briefed his team yesterday and told them to settle their differences as they see fit. Pravda continued to allege a serious split between Washington and its Nato allies in Europe.

Moscow hopes the Europeans will persuade the US to abandon space weapons research and freeze deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe during the talks.

Reagan briefs team, page 6
Star wars rift, page 12
Letters, page 13

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Reagan briefs team, page 6
Star wars rift, page 12
Letters, page 13

Reagan briefs team, page 6
Star wars rift, page 12
Letters, page 13

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Star wars rift, page 12
Letters, page 13

Reagan briefs team, page 6
Star wars rift, page 12
Letters, page 13

Reagan briefs team, page 6
Star wars rift, page 12
Letters, page 13

What the modern spy owes to the photocopier

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A large American diplomat explained this about the Indian spy ring: "You know, it wasn't our spy ring. It was a French spy ring. The French were far too many people involved in it for that. It was the Indians themselves who ran it."

"That's how some Indians who want to do business with foreign companies operate. They try to impress you with their knowledge of the inside track. They can fix things and get you information. That's how that sort of thing happens."

A senior Indian civil servant explained something further. "The problem has been the introduction of the photocopier to Indian Government offices."

Delhi (Reuters) - More than 1,500 people have been questioned in the espionage scandal, the United Trust of India news agency reported yesterday.

Teams of senior Indian intelligence officers had left for Paris and London to pursue inquiries. There was no explanation of why they were visiting London.

he said. "Until quite recently a clerk drawing up a top secret document would sign every copy and write 'There are five copies of this document, this is copy no three, and so on. Each recipient of a copy would have to sign it, and the clerk was not

allowed to keep one for his own files."

"Now, if someone comes in and wants a copy of your document you call your PA and say 'Please make a copy of this for sahib', and he goes away and simply puts it through a copier, where he can make any number for his own convenience if he wants, absolutely untraceably."

"Before, if you wanted another copy you would have to have it all retyped."

The scandal is notable for the odd light it is throwing on all manner of Indian customs and habits, many of which are going to be difficult to change even under a young and modernizing Prime Minister.

There is, for example, the power of the PA. Many is the time an important visitor has been kept waiting before the desk of a personal assistant who is on the phone to his aunt in Saker talking about the weather, while the minister or permanent secretary one has come to see is kept idle in his office.

"Darshan", the availability to view, is an important part of Indian governance, but "Darshan" can be hard to come by when there are screens of PAs and personal secretaries to go through.

"Courtesy is a virtue that this 'new class' does not have," complains a writer in yesterday's *The Statesman*. "There is a standing joke that while visiting a FA you should carry your own chair, for the chances of being offered one by him are rather slim."

Another acquaintance, a man of rather rightish views, regards the corruption of the Indian bureaucracy as due to the favoured position given to the scheduled castes: those unfavourables who used to be known as Untouchables, whom Mahatma Gandhi called Harijans - God's people. In order for these deprived classes to be raised up in society they are given favoured entry to higher education.

"I never met a scheduled caste officer who was not corrupt," the man said mournfully. "Imagine," he added thoughtfully, "being treated by a scheduled caste surgeon."

Refugees flee cholera camp

From Paul Vallyley, Addis Ababa

Oxfam is running down a relief centre in the Wollo region of Ethiopia after an outbreak of the epidemic which Western doctors here are calling cholera but which the Government maintains is merely "acute diarrhoea and vomiting".

At the small intensive-feeding centre of Bona, which had at the beginning of the month a population of 450, there have been 56 people struck down by the disease. Of those, 26, including 21 children, have died. Another 12 deaths have been reported in the nearby town and, only 50 yards away, a transit camp used by the Government's controversial resettlement scheme is also said to be infected.

More than 350 people have been discharged from the Oxfam camp on the grounds that they were more at risk from the epidemic than they were from malnourishment. Many of them simply fled without consulting the Oxfam authorities and the worry now is that some of them may have carried the disease elsewhere.

The cholera broke out nearly four weeks ago and lasted for 12 days", the camp's administrator, Mr Joe Human said. "Most of those who died were malnourished children, though some of their healthy siblings caught the disease too and died."

"We immediately initiated a much tougher regime on hygiene and sanitation. We stopped baking the local bread, *injera*, which is traditionally passed around, with obvious risk. We isolated suspected cases. It seems to have done the trick. We have had no further cases or deaths for the last four days."

There are now about 40 people left in the camp, some of them with the disease and too weak to move.

"The Government have asked us to run down the camp for fear of spreading the disease to the resettlement transit camp, which sometimes holds over 1,600 people. We may shut the camp down entirely but we haven't taken a decision on that yet," Mr Human said.

Following yesterday's article in *The Times* on the outbreaks which are reported in 12 different camps, the World Health Organization has become involved. Yesterday Dr Mestlin Dmisse, the national co-ordinator, said: "I asked the Ministry of Health to let me know the results of their inspection of the camps last week." They promised to let him have them today, he said, and "if the tests are positive I will inform the WHO in Geneva. If the result is negative I might well carry out independent laboratory tests."

On Monday the United Kingdom announced that it had agreed to contribute £100,000 to the relief effort.

Continued on back page, col 8

Help crew a lifeboat



Join Shoreline today. You don't need to be able to sail through mountainous seas in a force 9 gale to help crew a lifeboat. Our helpers on the shore are just as vital to our rescue work. By joining Shoreline, our nationwide supporters' organisation, you can do your bit for the lifeboats just as effectively.

You'll also be entitled to use certain RNLI insignia and, as a member, you'll be kept in touch with what we're doing via our quarterly magazine, *Lifeboat*.

To join us, just launch this coupon today.

Form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, and checkboxes for Family Membership (£7.50 p.a.), Governor (£15 p.a.), and Life Governor (£30 or more p.a.). Includes the Lifeboat logo and RNLI text.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'secret', 'intings', 'lefeand', 'y have', 'By', 'The', 'Times', 'FOCUS', 'Tomorrow', 'The Times will carry the first Bicen...', 'The Times Portfolio daily prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr Michael Page of Kessal Rise, north-west London. Today's list, page 18; How to play, Information Service, back page.', 'UN chief's new Cyprus initiative', 'Historian dies', 'Shuttle delay', 'Chernenko arms pledge', 'What the modern spy owes to the photocopier', 'Refugees flee cholera camp', 'Parties unite to stop Britain sinking, Stockton urges', 'Kidnappers demand £4m for Springer', 'Help crew a lifeboat', 'Join Shoreline today.'

MPs urge crackdown to end abuse of diplomatic privileges

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Curbs on the abuse of diplomatic immunity and privileges in Britain, ranging from terrorist shootings to motorway offences, were recommended yesterday by the Commons foreign affairs select committee.

And in a unanimous report drawn up after the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher at the Libyan People's Bureau last year and the attempted abduction of Alhaji Umaru Dikko, a former Nigerian minister, the MPs criticized the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for soft handling of Colonel Gaddafi's diplomatic representatives in Britain.

The committee rules out amending the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, which provides envoys with wide legal privileges, but insists that it must be applied strictly to the 5,000-strong diplomatic community in London.

"A firmer policy is the only effective weapon that the Government possesses, and should be strongly pursued. The United Kingdom will have to accept the often unjustified retaliatory action that will follow such a policy, as in the cases of Nigeria and Libya, as a price worth paying," the MPs say.

The Foreign Office disclosed last summer that in the past 10 years 546 serious crimes, including rape, incest, blackmail and assaults on the police, have been committed by diplomats in Britain, in addition to thousands of motoring offences. In every case those responsible escaped arrest or prosecution because of diplomatic immunity.

The committee recommends: ● Electronic scanning of diplomatic bags, where necessary, to prevent the illegal transport of arms and drugs.

● Records to be kept on the size and weight of diplomatic bags, which would highlight "unusual movements". ● The Foreign Office should warn every diplomat of the "very real possibility" of being ordered out of Britain for breaking the law.

● The Government should limit the size of missions causing concern through suspect activities. ● Better scrutiny of all diplomats arriving in Britain.

But the committee, in looking at the protection of embassies in London, defends the right

of the public to demonstrate peacefully outside diplomatic missions.

The MPs, who refer specifically to anti-apartheid protests near the South African Embassy, say that Britain's duty to protect "the peace of the mission cannot be given so wide an interpretation as to require the mission to be insulated from expressions of public opinion".

The Foreign Office is criticized for its handling of relations with the Libyan People's Bureau since 1979, and especially in the months before the shooting of WPC Fletcher, when the bureau was taken over by a committee of revolutionary students.

Whitehall should have been prepared to end all dealings with the bureau and cease to give the premises, in St James's Square, diplomatic immunity, the committee says.

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy to Libya, is due to call at the Foreign Office later this week to report to officials on his efforts to secure the release of four Britons detained in Libya since the middle of last year (the Press Association reports).

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Public expenditure reaction

Rise in jobless costs £3.25bn in benefits

By Staff Reporters

The rise in unemployment has added £3.25 billion to social security spending since 1979, figures in the Government's expenditure plans reveal.

The proportion of the social security budget spent on benefits to those out of work has risen from less than one-twelfth five years ago to almost one-sixth, and is due to go on rising over the next three years, even on the Government's own estimates of unemployment trends, which critics regard as optimistic.

Between 1979 and this year, benefit spending on the unemployed has risen in cash terms from £1,470 million to £6,400 million. Increasing numbers of those out of work are now dependent on the "safety net" of supplementary benefit for their income, their entitlement to unemployment benefit having run out after a year.

The proportion who are dependent on supplementary benefit alone for their income has risen from only just over 40 per cent of the unemployed in 1980 to 64 per cent, or almost two-thirds in the year beginning in April. From just under 1.1 million in 1980 their numbers will have risen to more than 1.7 million. Another 230,000 receive supplementary benefit on top of unemployment benefit to bring their income up to the supplementary benefit level.

Big increases in dental charges being planned by the Government risk putting dentistry back to the 1950s, with people having teeth extracted rather than crowned and conserved, the British Dental Association said yesterday.

The Government's spending plans forecast an increase in the budget of 22 and 25 per cent in income from dental charges in April, with further increases above inflation in the following two years. The association said yesterday it was "very worried" about the effects.

Local authorities expressed anger yesterday at the £300 million cut in education over three years which will mean an expected drop in spending of 4.5 per cent in 1984-85, 3.5 per cent in 1985-87 and 2 per cent over 1987-88.

Mr Robert Morris, education officer at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the Government was being "bullish" in thinking that the teaching force could be cut by 16,000 over the next few years.

Government plans to increase spending on legal aid by £100 million over the next three years, the Ministry of Defence disclosed last night.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, said last year: "The programme as a whole is expected to absorb some 1 to 1.5 per cent of the defence budget during the build-up in the first half of the 1980s, some 5 per cent at the end of the decade when expenditure will be at its height and then remain

at about this level during the early 1990s before declining."

But the ministry said last night that there had been an increase of 1 per cent in the estimate of peak expenditure, and by 1990 the project was expected to be taking up about 6 per cent.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said: "I am very glad that at last the ministry is beginning to come clean on the extent to which, particularly in the peak years, Trident will bite into our defence equipment budget."

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£2bn tax cut urged by CBI

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday unveiled its recommendation for this year's Budget, led by a £2 billion cut in personal taxation to take one million people out of the tax net.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was also urged to alter his plan, announced in last year's Budget, to abolish 100 per cent, first-year capital allowances for plant and machinery.

CBI leaders said that if the plan went ahead unchanged Britain's economic growth would suffer from sudden cuts in industrial investment, with an almost certain rise in unemployment.

Once again, the CBI has repeated its demand for increased expenditure on the nation's infrastructure. A 10 year, £1 billion programme of work on roads, sewers, ports and railways would create jobs, and boost industry's competitiveness, it says.

Sir James Clesimon, the CBI president, launching the organization's detailed, 42-page Budget document, *Make It Work*, said: "We are putting forward a modest fiscal expansion totally consistent with monetary control."

The CBI is seeking a £1.5 billion reduction in personal taxation in the first year through a 10 per cent increase in the main personal allowances above inflation, to be followed by similar higher-than-inflation rises over a number of years.

On the investment allowances issue, the CBI president said the results should be a dramatic dip in reliefs available in the transitional years before the new proposed system of 25 per cent relief began to work.

Other elements of the CBI Budget package include changes to capital gains tax costing about £650 million in a full year, and the abolition of development land tax, costing £25 million.

Britain's aerospace industry received another boost yesterday with the announcement by Pan American Airways of a \$125 million (£111.6 million) contract to buy the five-nation V2500 aero engine. Pan Am will use the engine in which the United Kingdom has a 30 per cent stake, to power its new European Airbus airliners.

The order means that the first of the controversial Airbus Industrie A320 150-seat airliners, due in 1988, will have a substantial British content.

The A320's wings will be built by British Aerospace, which has a 20 per cent share of Airbus Industrie.

Mr Howe, a part-time salesman of Stockport Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, and Bannister, a labourer, of no fixed address, deny the murders of Mr Elgar and Mr Pollitt and conspiring to murder Mr Redfern.

Murray, also of Stockport Road, Cheadle Heath, and Michael Bailey, aged 20, of Wirral Crescent, Cheadle Heath, have changed their pleas to guilty and will be sentenced later.

But it was noted that Mr Michael Meacher, a member of the Shadow Cabinet, and Mr Tom Sawyer, of the National Union of Public Employees, who had hoped to form a centre-left coalition with Mr Kinnock, sided with other left-wingers like Mr Tony Benn, Mr Dennis Skinner and Mr Eric Heffer against the expulsion.

Earlier, some members of the executive had been ousted by about 50 members of Militant lobbying the executive meeting at party headquarters in south London.

Announcing the executive verdict, Mr Jim Mortimer, general secretary of the party, said that anyone "charged" with actively supporting Militant could be expelled, provided there was evidence of organizational and financial support.



Facing the press (left to right): Mr Hudson, Mr Moore, Mr Pointon and Mr Batiste yesterday.

The miners' strike

Yorkshire revolt collapses

From Peter Daveyport, Normanton

In the hot, crowded, smoke-filled bar of the Central Town Club and Institute in Normanton, in the heart of the Yorkshire coalfield, the first tentative moves to break away from the National Union of Mineworkers collapsed yesterday under a welter of heated exchanges between striking and working miners.

A group of men who have returned to pits in the area had called a meeting to form a committee in support of working Nottinghamshire miners and which would have joined any new federation formed if Nottinghamshire is expelled from the national union.

They had intended to hold a press conference at 1.30pm to put their views, and there was a large gathering of television crews, reporters and photographers. But news of the venue had reached striking miners and more than 20 of them arrived, angry and determined to challenge any moves to set up a break-away organization.

At first, the mood was ugly and the doors were locked to prevent more strikers entering. The working miners retreated to a side room.

Half an hour later three men emerged to take their places before the microphones at two fornicia-topped tables. The mood of the strikers cooled.

At first the working miners were reluctant to talk about their intentions but then Mr Charles Pointon, a welder at Allerton Bywater Colliery, one of the men who instigated the meeting said: "We called this meeting with the intent of trying to form a break-away committee in case the Nottinghamshire men are expelled. But we have not got what we wanted."

Mr Pointon and Mr Terry Moore, an underground diesel driver at the same pit, were anxious to explain that they were not seeking to break up the NUM in Yorkshire.

A third man, Mr Terry Hudson, a COXA member and chairman of a Working Miners' Committee at the Sallingfleet Colliery said he had been invited to the meeting by Mr Moore and Mr Pointon, but he dissociated himself from the break-away moves. And Mr Spencer Batiste, the Yorkshire MP for Elmet in Yorkshire and president of the county Conservative Trade Unionist movement said he had been asked to attend the meeting to hear complaints of intimidation from working miners. He was not encouraging the formation of a break-away union, he said.

Mr Howard Wadsworth, the NUM branch delegate at the Kelligill Colliery in Yorkshire warned the men: "You are going to be used to divide the NUM."

After almost one and a quarter hours the meeting broke up in disarray.

Mr Wadsworth: "You will be used to divide NUM"

Kinnock U-turn on pits debate

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock is expected to press for a Commons debate on the pits dispute early next month in what is bound to be seen as a climbdown in the face of strong pressure from his own backbench striking miners.

The Labour leader said only last week that he did not favour a debate, because it would present the Conservative Party with a beleaguered National Union of Mineworkers as a target.

But it is understood that he indicated to a delegation of Tribune Group MPs on Tuesday night that he might be willing to go for a debate now that the Government had intervened to block negotiations; a much-needed diversion from Mr Arthur Scargill's problems with his union.

Senior party sources said last night that the possibility of a debate was now much stronger. Certainly the pressure for a debate is by no means confined to the hard-core of left-wing MPs who demonstrated in the Commons last Thursday.

Yesterday's meeting of the Labour National Executive issued a statement saying: "It is now clear that both the NUM and the Coal Board are anxious to begin serious negotiations leading to an end to the dispute. But the Government clearly intends otherwise."

"They are deliberately preventing these negotiations from getting under way. They are prepared instead to do all in their power to keep the dispute going."

Mr Ken Toon, South Derbyshire general secretary, said his executive would await the outcome of today's national executive meeting.

Mr David Prewer, general secretary of the Nottingham area, said yesterday that the decision had been taken already to expel Nottinghamshire because 50,000 leaflets were being distributed there inviting miners to join the national union.

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday said that the Government had been asked to accept government funds to finance their system of secret postal ballots on elections and industrial action.

A referendum on the issue has returned a large majority in favour of accepting government money, although full voting details are not being released until next week.

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When Britain's missiles may be counted in

ARMS CONTROL

The existence of that programme (he added) was no doubt one factor which the Soviet Union had in mind in agreeing to the resumption of these talks.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall North, Lab) said it would help to create the right atmosphere if Russian representatives and the United States were invited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that, together with all other governments concerned, the British Government recognized the case for commemorating 40 years of peace in Europe and doing it in a fashion which took account of the interest of peace and conciliation in Europe, not only with allies but all those who took part.

Mr Healey had drawn laughter from MPs when he commented that Sir Geoffrey Howe was now aligning himself more and more closely with Mr Gromyko, the Russian foreign minister, he should bear in mind that the Russian position had changed in the last two years, and it was French governments to allow their missiles to be counted in the INF talks was one important reason for the failure of those talks.

Mr Robin Cates (Birmingham, Edlington, Lab) said that, as the fortieth anniversary of VE Day approached the heroic role played by the Soviet Red Army and the Russian people in the defeat of fascism should be remembered. This should be borne in mind in the arms control talks. The Russian determination to try to secure a nuclear and general disarmament should be taken seriously.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said he subscribed to Mr Corbett's first point. One matter in his mind during his visit to Moscow last summer was that the Russians had suffered massive casualties in World War Two and that the rest of the allies played a notable part in victory.

On the negotiations, the fact that the sides had agreed to commence the negotiating process now in train at Geneva offered confirmation of their genuineness in the search.

We have done all we can to convince them of the necessity to sustain it (he said) and will continue to do so.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) said the American research programme on space weapons should be continued, but because it raised the prospect, however remote, of an antidote being found to nuclear weapons.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said the United States programme was to be considered alongside research into precisely the same kind of technology already undertaken in the Soviet Union. In so far as that research contributed to strengthening defences as part of the balance of armament, no doubt it was to be welcomed.

Two more calls for debate refused

COAL DISPUTE

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) rejected two further applications for emergency debates in the Commons on the miners' dispute. The first application was made by Mr Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontyfract and Castleford, Lab).

He recalled that the previous day the Speaker had declined to accept a motion to debate at an appropriate moment when it might be helpful. That time had come.

There was great hardship with broken marriages, bitterness, and bankruptcies of businesses in mining communities.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab), seeking a debate, said that while talks were in progress on Monday the London Standard newspaper was reporting they had broken down before any of the parties had left the negotiating room.

There was a danger of disorder breaking out on a picket line if the miners felt that no talks had any hope of success.

The Speaker said that neither application fell within the standing order allowing emergency debates.

Sir Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C) said that the Opposition had sought to change the day's debate.

The Speaker said that any such application would not be made to him.

Both sides attack the Post Office

CLOSURES

Even after the programme of crown and sub post office closures had been completed, there would be the largest retail network of any sort in the country representing 21,000 sub post offices and 1,567 crown post offices, Mr Geoffrey Patte, Minister for Information Technology, said in the Commons.

He said that if the post office counter network was to operate successfully, it needed to provide a service which was efficient and cost-effective. This was the way the post office would secure the future of its counter business.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, contended that the local post office fulfilled a vital social link for the least mobile members of society. He moved a motion regretting the Government's plans to close 78 crown post offices and 900 sub post offices.

At the heart of the debate, he said, was the balance between social and commercial responsibilities. The Government's policies towards post offices had become so rigorous in enforcing commercial viability that the authority statement contained a particularly narrow kind of social responsibility had become subordinate to it.

The motion stated that the closure would cause serious social

harm, inconvenience and disadvantage, particularly to the elderly, the disabled and the parents of small children, and impose extra travelling expense. It called on the Government to moderate its financial requirements so that an extensive and socially responsive network of post offices was maintained.

Mr Smith said the majority of senior citizens collect their pensions from the post office. The weekly visit (he went on) is often a social occasion of great importance to them. They meet friends and neighbours. For mothers and fathers of young children easy access to the post office is a great assistance. For the disabled such access is not only important, it is at the very heart of the service we provide.

The post office was hoping to make a profit of £110 million a year but the financial targets set for counter services did not include social considerations.

The savings from individual closures would not be very great. For instance one MP had been told that £30,000 would be saved by closing eight in his area.

This business of post office closures (he added) seems to many to be part of the relentless process of increasing unemployment and reducing public and community services. Many a day, let alone a week, goes by without a further cut in some community service which throws even more people onto the dole queue.

This is not a Government which builds, it is one that destroys and finds new opportunities to close facilities essential to civilized life in this country.

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European Parliament gets cold shoulder

POLICING

The British Government will not cooperate with European Parliament groups on inquiries about matters outside the Parliament's responsibility.

In giving that assurance during question time in the Commons, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, added that it was deplorable that the Labour Party had allowed the matter of the conduct of the police during the miners' strike to be dragged on to the floor of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The matter was raised by Mr Edward Tawell (South-East, C) who asked the Foreign Secretary to make abundantly clear that in 1985 the British Government would give no official cooperation to groups of European MPs coming to Britain to investigate matters of domestic interest, like the conduct of the police during the miners' strike.

It is deplorable that the Labour Party allowed that matter to be dragged on to the floor at Strasbourg, with scant respect for this House, (Cheers)

Mr George Walden (Buckingham, C) said Mr Gromyko had said on television on January 13 that he did not at all insist on Britain and France eliminating their nuclear weapons.

Will Sir Geoffrey Howe (he continued) find an effective way of telling the Opposition what the implications for unilateralism are in that statement?

Sir Geoffrey Howe agreed with the point Mr Gromyko's observation was in line with that made by Mr Andropov, that the concept was in line with that made by Mr Andropov, that the concept of unilateral disarmament was something the Russians would not contemplate because "We are not naive people."

Mr Healey asked whether Sir Geoffrey Howe agreed, as Mr Gromyko had insisted in his statement, that British missiles should be counted in the forthcoming talks on strategic weapons, particularly as the Government regarded them as strategic? They were committed by treaty to NATO.

If the Government continued with the Trident programme, it could be capable of destroying ten times more Soviet targets than the present Polaris force.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said he did not agree with Mr Healey's proposition.

A Bill that began back in 1969

COMPANIES

Sir Brendan Rhys Williams (Kensington, C) gave leave to bring in the Companies (Procedure) Bill, a similar version of which, he said, he had introduced in every parliamentary session since 1969, including two occasions when the committee stage had been completed.

The Bill would amend the law relating to the election and responsibilities of company directors, make provision for the appointment of audit committees and make other changes in company law.

These relative minor changes, he said, could make a significant difference and operate more fruitfully. The Bill was read a first time.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30). Motions on Scottish support for orders: Lords (3). Prosecution of Offences Bill, committee, third day.

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The post office was hoping to make a profit of £110 million a year but the financial targets set for counter services did not include social considerations.

The savings from individual closures would not be very great. For instance one MP had been told that £30,000 would be saved by closing eight in his area.

This business of post office closures (he added) seems to many to be part of the relentless process of increasing unemployment and reducing public and community services. Many a day, let alone a week, goes by without a further cut in some community service which throws even more people onto the dole queue.

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Stockton calls for a national government

UNEMPLOYMENT

Reducing taxation and introducing special measures to deal with unemployment were the surest ways to get the national fortune depended on getting on with the hard graft, making a living without wages outstripping earnings, and winning back markets lost at home and abroad the Earl of Gowrie, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Arts, said in a packed House of Lords.

The debate was opened by Lord Bewick (Lab), who called attention to the need to develop economic and social policies which united the nation, aimed at directly creating employment rather than reducing taxation, gave new life to national pride in the welfare state and encouraged motives of social responsibility rather than self interest.

Lord Bewick said that in this highly integrated society an extra effort was needed through constructive discussion to get the widest possible agreement for the policies which affected every citizen.

Current differences were not simply about market forces not even monetarism. It was the extreme and intolerant way in which these concepts had been shaped into a culture that was at the root of so much of the deep discontent and disunity. The assumption if implicitly was an unacceptable face of democratic government.

There was a good economic case for home ownership and also for having a stock of public housing for the need for a new vision for Britain in a new age. A Britain which despite its troubles was still increasing its wealth year by year in terms of gross domestic product and which, if it developed its potential, could still lead the world no longer in material prosperity but in something far more important, true human fulfilment.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Opposition peers, said they all

wanted to see an end to the coal strike. The Government had an obligation to propose an agenda which would form the basis of a negotiation. If both sides could move away from public rhetoric to private negotiation a workable formula could be achieved. It was the Government's duty to take positive action to that end now.

The Earl of Stockton (C), form / Mr Harold Macmillan, said that country had been through the coal and steam revolution of the nineteenth century and then the oil and internal combustion engine revolution. The second revolution, aided by two world wars, had similar dramatic results.

The third was bound to come and we had to be part of it. This country could learn a lot from the American experience. Five years ago they had been in much the same position as this country was now. They took tremendous buoyancy and determination had seen them expanding.

It was said they had created too much debt and had spent too much money. But you could not have production unless you borrowed money to produce. You could not first produce and then borrow.

There was a new law which had been invented that there was no difference between capital and income. Under this law you could spend all your capital on current account.

Let us stop the futile arguments about purely theoretical academic economic arguments (he said) and get back to the reality which is happening before our eyes in all parts of the world. You can see more modern forms of industrial production in Taiwan and North and South Korea than you see in England.

It must happen here (he continued). We must not be the slowest ship in the conveyer. We must be the leader in the conveyer or at least make an attempt to reach the leadership we have had for so long.

The decisions would not be for him but for the next generation to make if the country was to sink slowly and majestically like a great ship.

Or shall we make (he asked) a new determined, united effort, putting as far as we can party aside. There must be parties but there can be cooperation; there can even be national government.

Let us do the latter and then historians in the future will not describe the end of this century as the beginning of the decline and fall of Britain, but as the beginning of a new glorious renaissance. (Loud cheers)

Foreign posts to be cut

DIPLOMATS

Cuts on Foreign Office posts abroad of the type described by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, were considered by some Conservative MPs to be short-sighted folly in terms of British interests, Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) said in cheers during Commons questions.

Mr Soames said: Will be assure the House that cuts made to his department do not affect the efficiency and ability that we have to represent Britain's case abroad?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is inevitable that reductions involving the closure of 10 diplomatic and consular posts represent a reduction in the coverage of the department. One of the reasons we are proceeding in that way is to maintain the standard of work done by the department elsewhere.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) could not say he was made if the Foreign Office, instead

of paying the school fees of Foreign Office officials in British public schools, could be funding to comprehensive schools, whether voluntary-aided or not which have boarding facilities?

If the Secretary of State is determined to save money, could he not look objectively at this issue, where real savings can be made?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am sorry his view is limited to a narrow class perception. People involved in the Diplomatic Service over many years as a result of consecutive recommendations of outside establishments, as well as the governments have part of their salaries supplemented in precisely this way.

This is the way it is done for many private sector employees. The post office is serving in a remote station for a long period of time and are likely to do so again, then there is no substitute for a boarding school education.

It would be wrong to make cuts in the Diplomatic Service envisaged by him for the narrow, bitter class reasons he advances.

unable to collect benefits could make such an arrangement, thousands of which were already in use all over the country.

The post office could not close post offices anywhere without actually engaging in some degree of inconvenience and some degree of increased costs to some people going extra distance to other sub post offices but neither of these points actually substance to serious social harm.

The British Telecommunications Act 1981 imposed a duty on the post office to have regard to the social, industrial and commercial needs of the United Kingdom and to efficiency and economy.

The Government, like its predecessors, looked to the post office to carry its statutory duty as regards efficiency and economy just as it looked to the post office to satisfy the requirements of social need.

His department had received a large number of representations against specific proposals as had other ministers and the Prime Minister. The response in all cases had been the same. The Government was not involved in specific closure proposals and had no power or desire to intervene.

The need for the post office to respond to competition was reflected in its announcement that a network of 180 automatic teller machines, which in time would be part of a much wider network.

The post office wanted to maintain its premises so that it could compete but it could not afford to do this if it continued indefinitely to provide a network so much in excess of standards that had existed for 40 years.

Mr Robert Munn (Barnesley Central, Lab), a former Postmaster General,

said the post office could never be the best of country or rural sub post offices. Nor should it be the best of town sub post offices were needed.

The post office was being forced down a callous, cruel road; there was a harsh streak in its policy, brought about by the Government's cost-cutting policies. Already, distress was being caused to thousands sorely in need. The post office was losing its social conscience.

Mr Canal Gregory (York, C) said the post office could not be treated as a commercial organization. Efficiency with a social heart should be the watchword. How much credence could be attached to the post office's statement that each closure would be made after full consideration of the economic and social factors?

He would accept that if the post office had consulted the professional people, the social workers and voluntary agencies who helped the aged, for instance, but there were cases where it had failed to do so.

Mr Don Cossens (Mansfield, Lab) said that the blame for the hardship caused rested on Government decisions, not on the postmasters nor the post office. Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) said that it was wrong to say that these closures could be effected without undue hardship. It was the elderly, the handicapped and the mothers with young children who would have to travel to crown post offices and stand in queues.

The Post Office should establish twentieth century post offices with nineteenth century standards of service and courtesy.

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The debate was opened by Lord Bewick (Lab), who called attention to the need to develop economic and social policies which united the nation, aimed at directly creating employment rather than reducing taxation, gave new life to national pride in the welfare state and encouraged motives of social responsibility rather than self interest.

Lord Bewick said that in this highly integrated society an extra effort was needed through constructive discussion to get the widest possible agreement for the policies which affected every citizen.

Current differences were not simply about market forces not even monetarism. It was the extreme and intolerant way in which these concepts had been shaped into a culture that was at the root of so much of the deep discontent and disunity. The assumption if implicitly was an unacceptable face of democratic government.

There was a good economic case for home ownership and also for having a stock of public housing for the need for a new vision for Britain in a new age. A Britain which despite its troubles was still increasing its wealth year by year in terms of gross domestic product and which, if it developed its potential, could still lead the world no longer in material prosperity but in something far more important, true human fulfilment.

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The third was bound to come and we had to be part of it. This country could learn a lot from the American experience. Five years ago they had been in much the same position as this country was now. They took tremendous buoyancy and determination had seen them expanding.

It was said they had created too much debt and had spent too much money. But you could not have production unless you borrowed money to produce. You could not first produce and then borrow.

There was a new law which had been invented that there was no difference between capital and income. Under this law you could spend all your capital on current account.

Let us stop the futile arguments about purely theoretical academic economic arguments (he said) and get back to the reality which is happening before our eyes in all parts of the world. You can see more modern forms of industrial production in Taiwan and North and South Korea than you see in England.

It must happen here (he continued). We must not be the slowest ship in the conveyer. We must be the leader in the conveyer or at least make an attempt to reach the leadership we have had for so long.

The decisions would not be for him but for the next generation to make if the country was to sink slowly and majestically like a great ship.

Or shall we make (he asked) a new determined, united effort, putting as far as we can party aside. There must be parties but there can be cooperation; there can even be national government.

Let us do the latter and then historians in the future will not describe the end of this century as the beginning of the decline and fall of Britain, but as the beginning of a new glorious renaissance. (Loud cheers)

Foreign posts to be cut

DIPLOMATS

Cuts on Foreign Office posts abroad of the type described by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, were considered by some Conservative MPs to be short-sighted folly in terms of British interests, Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) said in cheers during Commons questions.

Mr Soames said: Will be assure the House that cuts made to his department do not affect the efficiency and ability that we have to represent Britain's case abroad?

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Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) could not say he was made if the Foreign Office, instead

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If the Secretary of State is determined to save money, could he not look objectively at this issue, where real savings can be made?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am sorry his view is limited to a narrow class perception. People involved in the Diplomatic Service over many years as a result of consecutive recommendations of outside establishments, as well as the governments have part of their salaries supplemented in precisely this way.

This is the way it is done for many private sector employees. The post office is serving in a remote station for a long period of time and are likely to do so again, then there is no substitute for a boarding school education.

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unable to collect benefits could make such an arrangement, thousands of which were already in use all over the country.

The post office could not close post offices anywhere without actually engaging in some degree of inconvenience and some degree of increased costs to some people going extra distance to other sub post offices but neither of these points actually substance to serious social harm.

The British Telecommunications Act 1981 imposed a duty on the post office to have regard to the social, industrial and commercial needs of the United Kingdom and to efficiency and economy.

The Government, like its predecessors, looked to the post office to carry its statutory duty as regards efficiency and economy just as it looked to the post office to satisfy the requirements of social need.

His department had received a large number of representations against specific proposals as had other ministers and the Prime Minister. The response in all cases had been the same. The Government was not involved in specific closure proposals and had no power or desire to intervene.

The need for the post office to respond to competition was reflected in its announcement that a network of 180 automatic teller machines, which in time would be part of a much wider network.

The post office wanted to maintain its premises so that it could compete but it could not afford to do this if it continued indefinitely to provide a network so much in excess of standards that had existed for 40 years.

Mr Robert Munn (Barnesley Central, Lab), a former Postmaster General,

said the post office could never be the best of country or rural sub post offices. Nor should it be the best of town sub post offices were needed.

The post office was being forced down a callous, cruel road; there was a harsh streak in its policy, brought about by the Government's cost-cutting policies. Already, distress was being caused to thousands sorely in need. The post office was losing its social conscience.

Mr Canal Gregory (York, C) said the post office could not be treated as a commercial organization. Efficiency with a social heart should be the watchword. How much credence could be attached to the post office's statement that each closure would be made after full consideration of the economic and social factors?

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Aid sought on outbreak of cholera

ETHIOPIA

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, indicated during questions in the Commons that the Government is considering how Britain might help combat the reported outbreak of cholera in refugee camps in Ethiopia.

Responding to Dr David Owen, Leader of the Social Democratic Party, who asked for British medical teams to be sent to Ethiopia, Mr Rifkind said his colleague Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, was considering how Britain could make a contribution.

Earlier Mr Rifkind said British had normal diplomatic relations with Ethiopia. In recent months' ministerial visits had enabled the two countries to discuss relations more deeply.

Mr Owen (he said) continuing to provide those in need in Ethiopia with considerable amounts of food aid.

Mr Geoffrey Jaeger (Leicester West, Lab) when considering the aid that we are able to give to Ethiopia, will this now be increased in order to meet the danger of the reported outbreak of cholera there?

Can Mr Rifkind say whether this or any nation other than Israel is making any effort whatever to settle or resettle any refugees?

Mr Rifkind: The United Kingdom has either given or committed over the last two years aid of approximately £30 million, which is a major contribution to the problems that exist within Ethiopia.

It would be reasonable to assume that the British Government would be able to provide that which most of those in the Sudan who are refugees from Ethiopia would ultimately wish to return to that country when circumstances so permit.

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Border town dusts off its bomb shelters and learns to live with fear

From Christopher Walker, Kiryat Shmona

With less than a month to go before the completion of the first stage of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, the municipal authorities in this bleak border town have begun the depressing task of repainting and cleaning the 200 public bomb shelters unused since the invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Special teams of psychologists have been set up to tour factories and schools advising how to cope once again with the problem of living under constant threat of rocket attack across the Lebanon border some five miles away.

"Naturally people are frightened, especially for the children who have got used to living a normal life above ground without having to worry about the next attack."

Convincing proof of this claim came last week when a well-publicized demonstration in the town against the Cabinet's decision failed to attract over 100 people.

The reluctance to protest came as a shock to the hard core of right-wing supporters of the previous Likud Government, who had counted on residents to take to the streets in their hundreds to back the

opposition being expressed by some local council leaders in Galilee.

Explaining the poor turnout, Miss Maya Ben-Adviva, a receptionist at the North Hotel, the last building to receive a direct hit from Katyusha rocket fired by Palestinians, told me: "Of course, we have mixed feelings about the soldiers coming home. But on balance, we think that it is better than losing another 600 lives in Lebanon."

Miss Ben-Adviva, who like most residents is a Jew of North African origin, spoke apprehensively about the changes the withdrawal will mean to those who have recently enjoyed a relaxation they had not known for more than 10 years before 1982.

"It will mean that every night before going to bed, we will have to pack a bag with clothes and coffee in case we have to rush down to the shelters again", she said. "Families will have to start sleeping again in the claustrophobic special room built in each apartment here with reinforced walls and no windows."

Elsewhere in the vulnerable region of Galilee which will again be in rocket range, several hundred Falashas from Ethiopia are living in hotels in the Mediterranean resort of

Nahariya and are being told what precautions to take in the event of a new bombardment from the north.

Senior army officers recently visited the seaside town to explain the pull out in local council leaders and immediately found themselves clashing with those who complained that not enough was being done to guarantee their future protection.

In Kiryat Shmona today it is impossible to find anyone who is not frightened about the coming months. Many see the ending of the school year in the summer as the crucial date for judging how many families will simply pack their bags and leave.

Since the Lebanon war, house prices have risen considerably and many new restaurants and shops have opened. "The fear now is that all this will collapse because the government has left unfinished business in Lebanon", said Mr Sammy Malul, a Likud supporter and an outspoken opponent of the pull-back.

Voicing a belief often heard also on the other side of the heavily guarded border fence, Mr Malul added: "There are many of us here convinced that in less than a year, they will have to go back and finish things off."



About face: Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Defence Minister, inspecting forces at Nabatiyeh in southern Lebanon, where the withdrawal has begun.

Karami pledges to calm feuds

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, said yesterday that Lebanon will resist Israeli efforts to stir up Christian-Muslim strife during its withdrawal from the occupied south.

After a six-hour Cabinet meeting, much of which was devoted to the planned Israeli withdrawal and its conse-

quences for Lebanon, Mr Karami said in a broadcast that the Government would work "to end the worry prevailing because of Israel's efforts to instigate sectarian feuds and unrest as it withdraws."

Mr Karami has made such accusations before. Earlier this week, after the car bomb attack that seriously injured the Sunni

Muslim leader, Mr Mustafa Saad in Sidon, he said: "Israel's agents will not escape punishment. This is a sample of what we have been expecting... the Israeli enemy will keep trying to raise tensions and destabilize Lebanese authority."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry flatly denied any involvement in the Saad attack.

The Popieluszko murder trial

General implicated further in cover-up

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

General Zenon Piatek of the Polish secret police became even more deeply enmeshed in the Popieluszko murder case yesterday with the testimony from two agents showing that he may have tried to cover up the fact that police were involved in the killing.

The general, suspended from duty but not under arrest, was head of the secret police's politically sensitive department tracking pro-Solidarity priests. The four officers accused of the murder - Colonel Adam Pietruszka, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, Lieutenants Leszek Pekala and Waldemar Chmielewski were all employed in his department.

Two secret police colonels, Stanislaw Lulinski and Wladlaw Glowacki, testified yesterday that after the disappearance of Father Popieluszko on October 19, they travelled to the city of Torun. They discovered a car bearing Interior Ministry number plates - and soon afterwards another set of apparently faked plates had been seen outside a church in Bydgoszcz where Father Jerzy Popieluszko was delivering a sermon. Colonel Lulinski recognized the plates as those used by the secret police.

General Piatek is caught in a second inconsistency but judges will not be able to decide whether he is lying until a set-piece courtroom confrontation is staged. The kidnapers used a special car permit for the

getaway vehicle. It was signed by Colonel Pietruszka, the general's deputy.

Employees of the secret police car pool have testified that when they realized the significance of the permit, they took it to the general who claimed it was clearly forged - but other junior agents saw no sign of this.

Mr Jan Olszewski, a Popieluszko family lawyer, yesterday asked that one of the car pool employees be confronted with the general in court to test who is telling the truth. But the judge then found that the actual permit was classified as an official secret and still in the hands of the Interior Ministry, not in the court files.

Judgment has also been delayed on whether a damaging anti-church document should be included in the files as evidence of Captain Piotrowski's frustration with the relative freedom of priests. The judge has ordered the state prosecutor to present the request again.

Captain Piotrowski believes the document is important because it explained the motivation for the kidnap and can be used to justify his "emotional frenzy" at the time of the murder.

Lawyers for Father Popieluszko say it is an attempt to make the trial a political propaganda offensive against priests who support the Solidarity opposition.

Bonn police add 10 to wanted list

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

West German federal police have placed 10 new suspected members of the Red Army Faction on the list of wanted terrorists after the latest series of bomb attacks on German and Nato targets, offering a reward of DM50,000 (£14,000) for their capture.

The new suspects are: Annette Becker, aged 30, Sabine Calsen, 23, Wolfgang Grams, 31, Karl-Friedrich Grosser, 28, Eva Haake-Frimpong, 30, Birgit Hoegsfeld, 28, Andrea Klumpp, 27, Barbara Meyer, 28, Horst Meyer, 28, and Thomas Sinaas, 31. Police have promised anonymity for anyone giving information.

Since the beginning of the hunger strike by the imprisoned leaders of the faction, there have been 40 attacks on military installations.

On Sunday a terrorist blew himself up while planting a bomb at a computer centre near Stuttgart used by West Germany's aerospace research programme. Police named him as Johannes Thimme, who was twice convicted of terrorist offences, and was a close friend of Christian Klar, the imprisoned faction leader whose health is said to be a cause of concern.

West German police have admitted that the faction, seems to have regrouped and may now be planning assassinations as well as further bomb attacks.

Turks take cash and go home

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Since autumn 1983 a fifth of all Turks living in West Germany have returned home, according to the social security office in Bayreuth responsible for administering special aid to returning Turkish workers.

The office said the effect of the federal Government's DM10,000 (£2,800) offer to every head of family returning to Turkey plus help for dependents had exceeded all expectations during the year it was in operation. Since 1983 some 107,000 of the 1,500,000 Turks living in West Germany had applied for repayment of the employers' shares of their social security payments, suggesting that with the inclusion of dependents a total of around 300,000 had gone home.

Under the special aid law, foreign workers who returned between October 1, 1983 and September 30 last year were entitled also to immediate repayment of half their social security contributions instead of waiting the usual two years.

Bonn has been anxious at a time of high unemployment to encourage as many of the 4.5 million foreigners living in West Germany to leave. The Turks, the largest group and the least integrated, have been the target of sporadic outbreaks of hostility and Bonn wants to reduce their numbers to defuse racial tensions.

Aftermath of Lee poll shock Liberalizing wind stirs in Singapore press

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

Less than a month after the rebuff delivered by Singapore voters to Mr Lee Kuan Yew's authoritarian style of government, a perceptible breath of liberalization is blowing through the local press.

Rominently described by foreign correspondents here as compliant and cowed, Singapore's newspapers are showing some willingness to assert themselves. The steps are tentative but the process is linked with the much-heralded

see what comes through," one respected local journalist said.

Immediately after the election, letters started appearing in the papers, offering explanations for the significant swing to the opposition. Although couched in restrained language they reflected a common theme: the ruling People's Action Party had been overtaken by arrogance and had failed to read the signs.

Further correspondence took issue with Mr Lee's threat to review the one-man-one-vote system and his views on genetic breeding, rare, if only implicit, criticism of the Prime Minister. The Straits Times, the main English-language newspaper, described the threat as disturbing.

But the most outspoken comment was a column in the Sunday Monitor which openly admitted the Press had failed in its responsibility to reflect voter frustration before the election. With a candour unprecedented in recent years, the columnist, Margaret Thomas, wrote: "Why didn't we? Let's not be coy about it because we toe the government line."

Local journalists readily acknowledge that the controls referred to by Mr Goh amount more to a fear of offending the authorities than any overt censorship. Rather than being detained or disappearing, the Singapore reporter who is too forthright risks demotion or a public tongue-lashing from an aide minister, and consequent loss of face.

The ultimate sanction in Singapore is usually economic and the press is no exception. Most local publishers are prevented from going out on a limb by the possibility that their annual licences will not be renewed.

Mr Goh: Controls may be eased.

transfer of political power from the Prime Minister to a committee of young leaders, some of whom appear to accept that the administration has lost touch with the electorate and express guarded approval for freer expression.

Mr Goh Chok Tong, Mr Lee's most likely successor, spoke last week of "loosening the controls" the Government accepted.

The change has caused some commentators to question whether it has, in fact, been sanctioned by the authorities. It could be that they are opening the door a little just to

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US-Soviet arms talks

Reagan tells his team to settle differences as March date is proposed

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The United States has proposed that the new round of arms talks with the Soviet Union should begin in Geneva in early March.

It is understood that these were among the subjects discussed when Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, met Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador, at the State Department on Tuesday evening.

President Reagan emphasized the importance he attaches to the talks after his meeting with his arms negotiators. "I view the arms commitments we undertook two weeks ago with the Soviets in Geneva with the utmost seriousness."

"I have no more important goal than reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons. The United States will have concrete ideas to put on

the negotiating table. We hope the Soviet Union will follow a similarly constructive approach."

The President said he intends to be more personally involved in arms talks than he has been in the past. He also told his negotiators to settle differences among them before they face the Russians. His remark was directed particularly at Pentagon "hawks" and State Department "doves" who have frequently been at loggerheads over tactics.

Three sets of talks are planned although they will all be contained under the same negotiating "umbrella". The first will deal with space weapons, the second with strategic and long-range weapons, and the third with medium-range missiles in Europe.

BRUSSELS: Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, is due in Rome today for the first of his planned series of consultations with Nato allies about whether his Government can postpone deployment of cruise missiles (Ian Murray writes).

Belgium is under strong pressure from Nato to honour its promise to deploy from March. Opinion polls show that Belgians are strongly against deployment, so the Government has been trying to delay a final decision.

There are growing signs that Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, is prepared to bow to

pressure from the allies to deploy. His own party, the Flemish Christian Democrats, has asked the Soviet Union to offer concrete signs of good will in the next few weeks. Failing that, the party, which is dominant in the government coalition, will be prepared to allow deployment.

DELHI: A call for a moratorium on weapons of war in space will come from a meeting of six heads of governments here on Monday (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The six leaders of nations in the non-aligned movement, will make their plea for an end to Star Wars as a result follow-up to their appeal made in May last year for a halt to all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister and chairman of the non-aligned movement, will be joined in Delhi by Mr Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece, Mr Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico and President Alfonsín of Argentina.

President Alfonsín arrived yesterday on a state visit. He will be the guest of honour at the Republic Day parade on Saturday.

Star Wars rift, page 12 Letters, page 13

Refugee camps epidemic

How cholera strikes down its victims

By Our Medical Correspondent

Cholera, now spreading through the refugee camps of Ethiopia, spreads readily in overcrowded, under-nourished communities where isolation of infected patients is impossible, where food cannot be properly cooked or the safety of the water guaranteed.

Outbreak kills eight in Kenya

Nairobi (AFP) - Eight people have died of cholera in an outbreak in Kenya's Coast province. The victims are believed to have been among mourners at a funeral at the weekend. All those who attended have been asked to report for a medical check-up.

The disease has been present endemically in some parts of the Indian sub-continent for 200 or 300 years. It is also now endemic in parts of Africa. The disease is caused by the organism vibrio cholera, which, although it has a possible incubation period of between 12 hours to six days, usually strikes within 24 to 72 hours. Cholera

colonizes the small bowel and although it produces a toxin, death occurs from shock following dehydration - so severe is the fluid loss and with it the loss of sodium, potassium and chloride that the circulation fails.

Patients appear excessively thin and wasted, cyanosed (blue) and collapsed. They tend to speak with a characteristically feeble, high-pitched voice. The actual diarrhoea is painless and the vomiting effortless, but the biochemical loss gives rise to agonizing cramps. In children, and occasionally adults, the lack of sugar in the blood causes fits or coma.

The acid produced by the lining of a healthy stomach destroys the cholera and it is estimated that a fit adult has to ingest more than 1,000 million organisms before infection results. But a smaller infection causes trouble in children or people weakened by starvation.

Vaccination is an inefficient long-term method of controlling the disease. Competent micro-biologists or experienced clinicians would not have any difficulty diagnosing cholera. An expert in tropical medicine told The Times that the signs and symptoms are so dramatic, the patients so desperately ill and death occurs so rapidly that anybody who has seen it would never forget it, or fail to make the correct diagnosis subsequently.



Coffee break: M Lionel Jospin, leader of the French Socialist Party, serves refreshment to M Jean-Marie Tjiboua during their meeting about New Caledonia.

Kanak leader scorns poll

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Kanaks will continue their struggle for independence in New Caledonia even if that solution is rejected by a majority of the island's inhabitants in the promised referendum on self-determination.

M Tjiboua's comments mark a definite hardening of the separatists' attitude at a time when France has been advocating moderation and responsibility if the Kanaks wish to win a sufficient number of "floating voters" to their cause.

The French Parliament is expected to vote to extend the state of emergency in New Caledonia until June 30. It was first decreed by M Edgard Pisani, the Government's special envoy, on January 12 after the violent riots provoked by the murder of

a young white Caldoche, and the killing of two leading Kanak separatists by police.

Under the law, a state of emergency may not continue for more than 12 days without approval of Parliament. It enables the Government to impose a curfew (9pm to 5am), ban demonstrations and meetings of more than five people, prohibit the carrying of arms and control Press and radio.

In Noumea, M Jacques Laheur, head of the Gaullist Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République, said he did not see the point of a state of emergency if the Government could not even protect the island's main source of wealth, its nickel mines, which account for 98 per cent of New Caledonia's exports.

New head for Renault in bid to halt slide

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The unceremonious removal of M Bernard Hanon as head of the Renault car company, and his replacement by M Georges Besse, head of the Pechiney aluminium group, was confirmed by the Cabinet yesterday.

Once considered the flagship of France's nationalized industries, Renault has seen its position in the European market fall from first to sixth in recent years. Last year it made an estimated loss of 9 billion francs (£225 million) on a turnover of 112 billion francs.

The Government, which has said that all nationalized industries save steel and shipbuilding

should be out of the red by the end of this year, felt that its reputation as an efficient manager of industry was at stake, and decided to take swift, not to say brutal, action.

The situation was all the more embarrassing because Peugeot, France's principal private car manufacturer which faces similar difficulties to Renault, seemed to be coping much better... and has overtaken Renault for the first time as top seller in the French market.

Some feel that M Hanon, who is 53, is being used as a scapegoat for the Government's own mistakes. It was after all

the Government who advised M Hanon earlier this year to adopt a "softly, softly" approach to the critical problem of overmanning.

This avoided all talk of compulsory redundancies, offering instead an attractive but expensive package of voluntary redundancy incentives, including early retirement, grants to encourage immigrant workers to return home, and a system of paid retraining leave with the promise of a new job at the end.

The unions are now waiting anxiously to see what action M Besse will take. Appointed managing director of the Pechiney group soon after its

Cold front delays Discovery launch

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Unusually cold Florida weather early yesterday forced a 24-hour postponement of the blast-off of the space shuttle Discovery on a top-secret military mission which experts say is to deploy a spy satellite to intercept electronic signals from the Soviet Union.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that the launch from Cape Canaveral was being delayed until this afternoon because "extreme weather conditions in the area are expected to cause icing conditions on the external tank" of the space ship.

It was feared that a build-up of ice on the huge fuel tank would result in chunks breaking off during the launch, damaging the shuttle's heat-resistant tiles or other equipment.

The problem arose when an Arctic front moved onto Florida over the weekend, also causing severe damage to the state's citrus crop.

NASA said it planned to launch the shuttle with its all-military crew of five between 1815 GMT and 2115 GMT today. The Air Force has refused to disclose the objectives of the mission or to identify the cargo. Details about the length of the mission and flight path are also withheld.

Unconfirmed reports, which angered the Reagan Administration, claim that Discovery will deploy a signal intelligence satellite which could intercept telemetry from Soviet missile tests to see whether Moscow is complying with arms control agreements.

Discovery will be making the fifteenth shuttle mission since the reusable space ships began flights in 1981. But it will be the first time that all space ship to ground communications after takeoff will be encoded and blacked out to the public in sharp contrast to the openness of previous flights.

30 feared lost in military air crashes

Washington (Reuter) - A US Navy reconnaissance plane with nine men on board is missing off the Pacific island of Guam, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The plane, a modified Sky-Warrior attack bomber, was flying from the Asugi air base near Tokyo and was reported overdue at the base in Agaña, Guam.

Earlier a US military transport plane heading for Panama with 21 men on board crashed into the Caribbean 500 yards from the Honduras coast. All on board were feared dead.

Murder suspect is questioned

Taipei (AP) - US investigators spent nearly six hours yesterday questioning Chen Chi-Li, an alleged Taiwan gangster wanted in the US in connection with inquiries into the murder of the dissident Chinese-American author Henry Liu.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's official Central News Agency quoted an unnamed government source as saying it remained unclear how Taiwan intelligence officials were involved in the murder.

Santiago protest

Santiago (Reuter) - Chilean police broke up a protest outside Santiago Cathedral during a Mass in memory of the late President Eduardo Frei that was marked by anti-government sentiment. At least eight people were arrested.

Sent to France

Washington (AFP) - Christian David, a convicted "Foreign Connection" drug trafficker, has been extradited to France to serve a sentence for the 1966 murder of a police inspector, the Justice Department said.

Slap happy

Paris (AFP) - A Sofres poll of married couples in the magazine Marie-Claire showed that 67 per cent of the men complained of being beaten, compared to 13 per cent of women. But 38 per cent agreed that "giving a good slap relieves one's feelings".

Antiques seized

Nicosia (AP) - Millions of dollars worth of silk carpets, ancient manuscripts and other artefacts being smuggled to foreign museums, were seized by the authorities in Iran, the official Iranian news agency, Irna, reported.

Peru rejection

Lima (AFP) - Peru's Interior Minister, General Oscar Bush, has rejected Amnesty International charges of arbitrary arrest, torture and murder of civilians by government forces fighting guerrillas in the south of the country.

\$10m boycott

Tel Aviv (Reuter) - Orthodox Jews have withdrawn \$10 million dollars from Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank, in a dispute over involvement in a building project which rabbis claim desecrated ancient graves.

Border rebellion

Ankara (AFP) - Bulgaria has "temporarily" closed its border to Turkish tourists, in response to press reports that Turkish Bulgarians are suffering repression after being made to "Bulgarianize" family names.

Gandhi riot toll

Delhi (Reuter) - At least 2,717 people were killed in anti-Sikh riots sparked by the murder of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Government said, more than doubling its previous figures.

Ordered out

Paris (Reuter) - A military attaché at the Polish embassy here who was collecting information on Solidarity has been ordered home, French Government sources said.

Dissident freed

Belgrade (Reuter) - Favisuka Imsirovic, one of the accused in the conspiracy trial of six Yugoslav dissident intellectuals, was freed yesterday and three others had charges against them reduced.

Gulf victim

Baghdad (Reuter) - Iraqi aircraft hit an oil terminal ship south of Iraq's oil terminal at Kharg Island, a military spokesman said.

Police killed

Colombo - Three policemen were killed and two were injured yesterday when their vehicle was destroyed by a land mine in Sri Lanka's eastern province.

A. N. Other

Athens (AAP) - Juan Ramón Rocha, an Argentinean who played for the top Panathinaikos team using false Greek nationality, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment on five charges. He immediately lodged an appeal.

Howe visits all Soviet bloc states

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe will become the first British Foreign Secretary to have toured all countries in the Eastern bloc as a result of plans announced by the Foreign Office last night.

Sir Geoffrey is to pay the first official visit of a British Foreign Secretary to East Germany on April 8-10, after which he will go to Czechoslovakia and Poland. The tour follows a visit to Romania and Bulgaria next month.

Together with the Foreign Secretary's visits last year to the Soviet Union and Hungary, the trips are seen as reflecting the Government's long-stated ambition to extend and broaden the East-West dialogue after a period during which relations were distinctly cool.

Last year, the visit to Poland by one of Sir Geoffrey's junior ministers, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, during which he saw representatives of Solidarity and placed a wreath on the grave of the murdered priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko, was criticized by a Polish government spokesman on the minister's return.

VIENNA: Sir Geoffrey has been invited to attend the celebrations in May commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Austrian state treaty, Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said yesterday at the end of a three-day visit to Vienna (Richard Bassett writes). The celebrations will focus on the successful preservation of Austrian neutrality.

Pope will confront Peru's grim civil war

Caracas (Reuter) - The Pope arrives in Venezuela on Saturday for his sixth visit to Latin America.

The 12-day journey will take him to the battleground of one of the world's cruelest guerrilla wars and to the heart of Latin America's past splendour - the capital of the Inca Empire.

He will make full visits to the Andean countries of Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru, with a brief stopover in the Caribbean state of Trinidad and Tobago. The Pope will visit 15 cities and is expected to attract about 20 million people.

The dramatic high point is expected to be a quick visit to Ayacucho, centre of guerrilla operations by the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) group. About 4,000 people have died in the area since 1980, many of them in Indian village massacres.

The Pope will spend an hour in the city, protected by unprecedented security at the small airport where Andean peasants have even been barred from wearing their traditional ponchos to guard against concealed bombs. President Fernando Belaunde Terry, of Peru, has said he hopes the visit will help to end the violence.

The themes of the visit are expected to be mainly pastoral, emphasizing values such as work and respect for the family, but the Pope is also likely to touch on the region's violence.

His message will go out to the Spanish-speakers of Latin America, half the world's Roman Catholics, and the Indian population whom he will address in the native Quechua. During his visit to Ayacucho, he will deliver a call for peace and brotherhood to about 200,000 Indian peasants from the surrounding mountains.

In Peru, the Pope's visit has reawakened debate on the controversial theme of liberation theology, a movement promoted by left-wing priests who believe the Church should play an active role in class struggle.

The movement is still alive, despite a Vatican ruling last year which opposed church links with leftist political organizations to secure economic and social gains. The issue is particularly controversial in Peru, where about a third of the bishops back the views of Father Gustavo Gutiérrez, a local priest said to have coined the term liberation theology.

Neves promises to stop Brazil's perks bonanza

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

As Brazil's President-elect, Senator Tancredo Neves, embarks today on the first leg of a five-nation foreign tour, he has won new support with a promise to bring under tight control the increasingly wide-

spread perks for government employees.

Nowhere is the perks problem worse than in Congress itself, where 24,000 people are nominally employed. If they all turned up there would hardly be a standing room. Senator Neves has said he will auction off 14

massive ministerial mansions and that officials "will not in future be able to eat and drink at the state's expense". Nobody would live rent-free in Brasilia in future, he promised.

There has been increasing public disquiet at a system which gives many officials

houses, chauffeur-driven cars and free schooling, and even allocates special credit cards to some.

A large proportion of journalists covering Congress also work as public relations staff for deputies, so criticism of perks has been very muted.

Ex-singer charged with Belushi death

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Cathy Smith, the former rock singer, has been charged here with murdering comedian John Belushi and furnishing him with cocaine and heroin.

The charge follows two years of legal efforts to extradite Miss Smith, aged 38, from Canada. Mr Michael Montagna, deputy district attorney, said Miss Smith is expected to plead guilty to a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Belushi had been a star of the popular Saturday Night Live television show and such movies as Animal House and Continental Divide.

Miss Smith, who had been fighting extradition, but returned voluntarily to Los Angeles on Tuesday, is being represented by Mr Howard Weitzman who successfully defended Mr John DeLoach, the car maker, in his cocaine smuggling case last year.

Rawlings accused of betraying revolution

Accra (AFP) - The Ghanaian Leader, Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, has been attacked by former left-wing supporters for his recent political and economic policies.

A statement read here by Mr Fui Takata, a law lecturer and aide to Mr Rawlings, was especially critical of the increasing role of the world Bank and International Monetary Fund in determining national economic policy.

In the strongest public reaction so far to the Rawlings recovery programme, the statement said the Government has abandoned the ideals of the revolution by following the directives of the IMF and World Bank. Last month the bank agreed to lend Ghana \$415 million



Mr Rawlings: Under fire from former allies

Anzus faces crisis over ships ban

Wellington (AFP) - The Opposition Party yesterday accused the Labour Government of putting New Zealand's security in jeopardy with its ban on port calls by US nuclear warships.

Mr Jim McLay, the Opposition leader, said: "People in the United States and Australia are asking whether or not Anzus (the defence alliance linking the three nations) will continue."

"There are people in Australia saying Australia should negotiate a separate defence treaty with the United States. For New Zealand, that would be tragic."

Australian Opposition leaders have said that Canberra should give New Zealand a final chance to accept port calls by US nuclear warships before signing a separate bilateral treaty with Washington.

Mr Geoffrey Palmer, New Zealand's acting Prime Minister, attacked Mr McLay's statement as "irresponsible, inflammatory and inaccurate. We are committed to the Anzus alliance."

WASHINGTON: The Reagan Administration has asked New Zealand to permit a naval ship to make a port call, despite the ban (Mohsin Ali writes).

The application is for a specific ship in connection with the Anzus "Sea Eagle" exercise in March. A State Department spokesman said: "But Washington would follow 'our policy' of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons on board."

Karpov varies opening in 45th game

Moscow (Reuter) - The world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov, opened the 45th game of his epic struggle to retain his title yesterday, playing the white pieces and hoping for the win he needs to bring the five-month marathon to an end.

Karpov opened with P-K4 and the game quickly developed into the familiar pattern of the Sicilian defence.

The challenger, Gary Kasparov, trails 5-1. The first nine moves yesterday repeated the pattern of the 43rd game, the last in which Karpov played white, but on the 10th the champion deviated, playing P-QR4, apparently seeking a new variant which would avoid yet another draw.

Commonwealth force planned

Commonwealth parliamentarians called yesterday for the creation of a Commonwealth defence force of rapid deployment units to help small countries defend themselves (Reuter reports).

The proposal, by a study group of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, is intended for discussion at the Commonwealth summit in the Bahamas next October.

Legal ruling may start flood of EEC actions

Brussels (AFP) - The European Parliament can prosecute EEC member states for failing to adopt a common transport policy, says a ruling by the Advocate General of the European Court in Luxembourg, ruled yesterday.

If the ruling is upheld by the full court in the summer it could open the floodgates for cases from the power-hungry Parliament against the Council of Ministers representing member governments.

Herr Lenz dismissed the council's argument that a case of this kind was inadmissible. He refused to accept that the court had no role to play in judging the failure of the council to reach political decisions.

It has taken two years to put the opinion together. The council is now struggling with the council Parliament will set a precedent which will enable it to attack the dominant position of member states in Community institutions. Britain supports the council's view that progress towards creating a transport policy has been made, but is unlikely to be too unhappy if the final judgment helps to unlock the logjam of proposals awaiting decision.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Ver to be tried for Aquino cover-up

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Three senior Philippines military officers and 14 soldiers were charged yesterday with the 1983 assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino and the man the military claims killed him.

The Government Ombudsman also charged General Fabian Ver, the armed forces Chief of Staff, Major General Prospero Olivas, the Manila police chief, and six soldiers as accessories in a military conspiracy to cover up the killing.

The lone civilian charged, Mr Hermelino Gostoso, a businessman, was accused of being an accomplice to the conspiracy.

The charges have been lodged with a special anti-graft and corruption court whose nine judges are all appointed by President Marcos. Arrest warrants are expected to be issued in the next few days.

General Ver, a relative and close confidant of President Marcos, had refused to file a motion of dismissal before the Ombudsman, saying he wished to prove his innocence in court. He and General Olivas have been on indefinite leave since they were implicated by an inquiry commission report last October.

President Marcos and top military leaders have expressed their support for General Ver, saying he and the military establishment eventually will be exonerated.

Brigadier General Luther Coustodi, Chief of Aviation Security, two colonels and 14 soldiers were named as the principal accused in the killing of Aquino as he stepped off a plane in August 1983, after three years self-exile in the United States. They are also

accused of complicity in the killing, seconds later, of Rolando Galman, blamed by the military for the assassination.

The double murder charges carry a maximum death penalty. General Ver and the others charged with being accessories face a maximum 20 years in jail.

The Ombudsman rejected bid for 17 principal accused and recommended ban of 15,000 pesos (£700) for General Ver and his nine co-accused.

The Ombudsman, Mr Bernardo Fernandez, announcing the results of a month-long investigation by a three-man panel at a news conference yesterday, said the panel had agreed with the overall findings of the 11-month inquiry which in October found that Aquino was killed by one of his guards and not by Galman.

The majority report of the five-member commission found General Ver and 25 others "indictable for the premeditated killing of Aquino and Galman."

The Ombudsman, however, found no evidence to link either General Ver or General Olivas to the actual murder.

"Nowhere in the evidence gathered by the board is there any indication of any direct participation of the one or the other in the (murder) conspiracy," Mr Fernandez said.

He had to agree with the inquiry committee that the two had attempted to hide the crime.

The commission's minority report, filed by the chairman, was rejected by the Ombudsman. It had implicated only General Coustodi and six soldiers in the killing.



General Ver: Facing up to his trial 'like a good soldier'

INNOCENCE PLEA: General Ver yesterday said he had prepared for the Ombudsman's findings "like a good soldier" and pressed his innocence (AP reports).

The general said he was innocent in Aquino's death and was confident he would be cleared in his forthcoming trial.

"No, I am not worried, I have faith in the judicial process," he said by telephone from his presidential palace quarters.

The general sounded at ease as he answered questions without hesitation, occasionally laughing as he replied.

General Ver said he did not believe President Marcos would be affected politically by the murder trial. "I'm sure he's happy... that the judicial processes are being followed."

Farmers in Africa fight off plague of worms

From Jan Raath Harare

Agricultural authorities and farmers in much of southern Africa are fighting off waves of destructive army worms from East Africa.

In Kenya the pest has devoured an estimated 90,000 acres of farmland. In Tanzania officials have predicted disaster in seven of the country's 22 regions.

Their arrival in south-central Africa has coincided with the break in a three-year drought and the possibility of a large grain harvest. But the strong rain-bearing winds have also brought swarms of inconspicuous brown moths, which can be borne hundreds of miles and lay eggs over a wide area before anyone is aware of their presence. The larvae hatch in less than a week and begin eating their way through all tender vegetation in their path.

In Malawi last month, big infestations were reported, but rapidly mounted spraying managed to contain the initial outbreak.

In northern Zimbabwe, an invasion from Mozambique flattened 300 acres of farmland, but the outbreak was checked in a matter of days when the Ministry of Agriculture supplied farmers with sprayers and insecticide.

A serious problem in pest control is the lack of communication between the states in the region.

Breaking the deadlock in Mozambique Pretoria nudges rebels to talks

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa is trying to re-establish itself as a peacemaker in its black-ruled neighbour Mozambique, where continuing brigandage, civil war and economic chaos are threatening the survival of the Nkomati non-aggression accord signed in March last year.

At the invitation of the South African Government, Mr Evo Fernandes, the Secretary-General of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), the guerrilla movement fighting the Nkomati regime of President Samora Machel, has been in Pretoria since last weekend for consultations with unnamed "interested parties".

Meanwhile, Mr Frank Wisner, a senior American official responsible for African affairs is visiting Maputo where he is expected to discuss, among other things, details of Washington's recent offer to provide Mozambique with limited "non-lethal" military assistance, such as logistics and communications equipment.

According to foreign ministry sources here, Mr Fernandes' visit to Pretoria is aimed at "breaking the deadlock" in the Mozambique peace talks which began with the so-called Pretoria Declaration of October 3 last year.

A joint commission, with representatives of the Mozambique Government and the MNR under the chairmanship of the South African Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Louis Nel, met a couple of times immediately after October 3, but has not held a session for more than two months now.

In the meantime, MNR activity has, if anything, increased. The murder earlier this month of two British citizens travelling by road to Maputo by MNR rebels thought to have been operating from South African soil prompted Mr P. W. Botha, the South African President, to make one of his strongest statements of support for the Nkomati accord.

Violence against Mozambique from South African territory



Mr Nel: Chaired meetings of Government and MNR

"will not be tolerated and the Government will not hesitate to act decisively against people who plan, or perpetrate, violence against Mozambique or those who flee to South Africa after they have carried out their violent activities in Mozambique", he declared.

Most observers believe the South African President and his Foreign Minister are sincere in wanting the Nkomati accord to work, if only because they have invested so much personal political capital in its success.

There is speculation, however, of continuing clandestine

support for the MNR from elements within the South African armed forces and the large Portuguese community here, many of whose members fled from Mozambique at the time of independence from Portugal in 1975.

Funds and material are also thought to be channelled to the MNR from the business community in Portugal itself via Malawi and the Comoros, a group of islands some 200 miles off the north coast of Mozambique, whose right-wing government came to power in a coup staged by European mercenaries.

Malawi and the Comoros were among the east African countries visited last month by the South African Foreign Minister, who may have taken the opportunity to warn these two friendly governments that re-supply of the MNR from their territories would no longer be welcomed by Pretoria.

LISBON: The Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares is to clamp down on activities in Portugal of the MNR (AFP reports).

A spokesman said Dr Soares yesterday met the ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice and the Interior to "examine actions to be taken by the government against the activities of the MNR in Portugal."

In another move, Mr Jorge Correia, European representative of MNR, attacked the US decision to supply \$1 million worth of communications equipment and uniforms to the Government of Mozambique as "incomprehensible".

China holds Vietnam responsible

From Mary Lee Peking

China yesterday said that its troops along the Sino-Vietnamese border were forced "to counter-attack in self-defence" after Vietnamese provocations in mid-January.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Ma Yuzhen, made the statement in response to Hanoi's charges last week that Chinese infantry had launched "new war activities" from hills along the Yunnan-Guangxi provincial border with Vietnam. It is not clear whether China has invaded Vietnam but Hanoi, quoting foreign press reports, said Peking had moved five more divisions and many combat aircraft to the border.

Mr Ma said the Vietnamese had fired more than 137,000 shells and made more than 40 raids on Chinese border troops since last November.

Vietnam was also accused of sending spies and saboteurs across the border and kidnapping innocent inhabitants. Hanoi had earlier said that the Chinese fired 500,000 shells and mortar rounds, "causing heavy losses of life".

Vietnam charged Peking and Washington with collusion against the Indo-Chinese states.

Rush task for Mugabe poll team

From Our Correspondent Harare

Zimbabwe's first post-independence general election will be held in March, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said here yesterday.

Any postponement was out of the question, he told the House of Assembly. It had been intended to hold it this month, but that was found not to be feasible.

If the election is held on the last day of March, Zimbabwe's untried election machine has 67 days from now in which to perform a prodigious series of tasks. The final results of the first national voter registration campaign, with some 2.5 million black voters on the common roll, is due to be completed today.

Only then can the Delimitation Commission, chaired by Mr Justice Wilson Sandura, begin to divide the country into 100 constituencies.

None of the political parties has yet chosen its candidates, but nomination day has been set. Only when this is done can the government printer begin the task of producing about three million intricate ballot papers, the design of which has still to be chosen.

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Kurdish leader seeks support Ayatollah's troops said to have lost their zeal

By Hazhir Teimourian

The zeal has gone out of Iran's troops, in both its wars with us and Iraq. This is the view of Dr Abdorrahman Qassemilou, the main leader of Iran's five-million Kurdish minority, whose 12,000 full-time guerrillas, the Peshmargah, have succeeded in keeping parts of the mountainous north-western region of the country free from the rule of the ayatollahs in Tehran during the past six years.

Dr Qassemilou, a former lecturer in economic planning at the Sorbonne, is taking advantage of the customary winter lull in the fighting in the snowbound highlands of Kurdistan to tour Western Europe to gather support.

"The last spring and summer we had a particularly hard time. In three major offensives, the Government captured and kept some strategic areas from our Peshmargah, but it did not break us. Now we have bounced back. We have freedom of movement in most places in the mountains by day and everywhere by night, though the towns still remain in government hands."

He admits that not all the Iranian troops in Kurdistan, whom he estimates at more than 200,000, are fighting the Kurds. Some of them face the Kurds along the Gulf War fronts, but not much has

happened in that conflict since February. "Instead, (Ayatollah) Khomeini has concentrated his fire on us."

"Up to about two years ago, Khomeini's most powerful weapon was his readiness of his troops to die. But now, these same troops do not fight to their last bullet. They surrender much more easily, and they sometimes even send us messages that if we do not bother them in their bases, they will not bother us."

Dr Qassemilou has his own problems. A small Kurdish communist party, the Komalah, and some Iranian Marxist groups, have set up bases in the areas under his control. They denounce his party as a bourgeois group of nationalists which does not have the interests of the proletariat at heart.

The killing of one of his commanders in November by the Komalah set off fierce clashes, in which the Komalah lost 13 men and two bases. The bases and their arms have been returned to the party, but the tension remains.

In July, Tehran sent a delegation to Kurdistan to negotiate peace. "The Imam dies not like bloodshed among Muslim brothers", Dr Qassemilou quoted the head of the delegation as saying. "We told them that we would not settle for anything less than full autonomy within the state of Iran, and we demanded that future negotiations be open and in Kurdistan. We never heard from them again."

Dr Qassemilou appealed to the outside world not to forget the cause of his people just because they were not resorting to terrorism or because super-powers were not involved in Kurdistan, as in Afghanistan.

"Our struggle to defend our national survival and our ancient culture is worthy of support in its own right. And we have under 30,000 refugees at present suffering from cold and hunger in caves. Very few people care."

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65	65	793	1743	2692	4592
66	66	750	1647	2544	4338
67	67	709	1557	2405	4102
68	68	671	1474	2277	3883
69	69	634	1392	2150	3667
70	70	600	1318	2037	3473
71	71	568	1248	1928	3288
72	72	538	1182	1825	3113
73	73	509	1118	1728	2946
74	74	481	1056	1631	2782
75	75	456	999	1543	2631
76	76	428	941	1453	2477
77	77	403	885	1367	2330
78	78	379	831	1284	2190
79	79	356	781	1207	2057
80	80	333	731	1129	1925
81	81	311	682	1054	1797
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THE ARTS

The London Symphony Orchestra on Sunday pays a rare seventieth-birthday tribute to one of its own members, the clarinetist Jack Brymer: interview by Peter Lewis

A life that could never be lived again

On Sunday a seventeenth-century birthday concert is being held for once not for a conductor or a composer but for a first clarinet. There the surprise ends because the clarinet player in question is Jack Brymer, the genial, bald eminence who has been the mellifluous mainstay of so many wind sections. But it is exceptional for an orchestra such as the LSO to do this for one of its stalwarts so publicly.

Jack Brymer's career has been spread over three orchestras - the original Royal Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony and, for the past 12 years, the London Symphony - as well as his work as a recitalist and soloist. But his life has been an example of how things have changed: he thinks it could never happen nowadays.

Besides the Mozart and Finzi concertos at Sunday's Barbican concert he will be playing in one of the works performed at his first fully professional engagement with the RPO in 1947 - Strauss's *Don Juan*. Then, Beecham was on the rostrum and Strauss was in the audience (and in the rehearsal room, with suggestions). But, only a month before, Brymer had been a schoolmaster by profession. It was, he says mildly, going in at the deep end.

He had been, admittedly, a very musical schoolmaster, with many semi-professional concerts to his credit. And he had been playing the clarinet since early childhood but without any teacher. He had taught himself today's musicians would never approve. It was therefore all the more stunning a surprise to receive a call from Sir Thomas Beecham inviting him to audition at his house in St John's Wood. Beecham himself accompanied him in Brahms, as best he could with all his fingers bandaged against the gout. "I don't really believe that this could happen again", says Brymer, looking back on this well-known tale. "He made me his principal."

"It may have been Dennis Brain who suggested that Beecham should hear me. But I'm sure no other conductor would have taken this risk. Tommy was sure of his own judgement." Brymer has just been appointed director of the annual Shell/LSO scholarships for instrumentalists. Remembering the remarkable chance he was presented with, he will insist on hearing everyone who applies, whether recommended by a teacher or not. "They may only be heard for two minutes, but they will all be heard."

He points out that nobody is entirely "self-taught". "I learnt from everyone I heard play. Frederick Thurston and Reginald Kell unwittingly betrayed their methods to me but I also decided that I wanted to play in certain ways that they had never done. The ability to play the clarinet is the ability to overcome the imperfections of the instrument. There's no such thing as a perfect clarinet, never was and never will be."

One of the saddest days of his life was when he fell asleep at a sultry and boring film recording session, least on his old and trusted B flat clarinet and snapped it in two after 26 years of loyal service. It never sounded the same after being repaired and, as a result, his A clarinet wilted and died, as he puts it. "Clarinet comes in pairs and, for reasons hard to explain, the breaking up of one can be almost as destructive to the other."

That was in 1962. He is still playing the pair that succeeded them, for the bond between player and instrument grows very close. "It happens very rarely, but when it happens it's worth waiting for, that the instrument becomes part of your body. You are unconscious of the technicalities and there is nothing between you and the music."

Sunday's concert was planned to be the grand finale before he retired from the orchestra, but Brymer is a very fit 70 and the LSO has asked him, yet again, to stay on for one more year. "This is a job that requires tremendous physical energy. If a musician isn't fit, he soon falls by the wayside. Maybe one of the secrets is that I was a very keen rugby player."

As a veteran who played not only for Beecham but for Stokowski, Koussevitzky and Bruno Walter, he is not over-impressed by current conducting standards. "The system isn't designed to throw up an authoritarian genius who stays with one orchestra. They jet in and out but they have no time for contemplation. For Beecham, conducting was a silent, choreographic art. When he turned his eye on you, you knew exactly how it had to be. Most of his magic was in his eye - it wasn't in his baton."

"But his gestures also conveyed to the audience how it had to be. A great conductor must take the audience into a performance. That was the trouble when Rudolf Kempe succeeded him. He was a fine conductor from in front but he radiated absolutely nothing behind him and everybody missed that. Of course, it is impossible to follow Tommy." It is also going to be hard for any clarinet player to follow Jack Brymer.



Photograph of Jack Brymer by Murray Job

Opera

Mozart's characters given a new lease of life

Le nozze di Cherubino

Jeannetta Cochrane

And then what happened? Giles Swayne may not be the first to attempt a sequel to *Le nozze di Figaro*, but he surely has no rivals for sheer effrontery. What he has produced is a highly entertaining opera done in Italian verse very much in the style of da Ponte, set as Mozart might have set it if he had forgotten how to think in units longer than 16 bars.

Swayne does himself a

disservice in insisting that the thing is not pastiche: it is pastiche, of a very adept and often amusing kind. Mozart's characters, more or less caricatured, gain a new lease of life with their vocal features pretty well intact, and there is much play with common Mozartian phrases, as well as with a few quotations.

The only departure from eighteenth-century convention is that there is no orchestra, just a continuo of harpsichord, cello and double bass for the recitatives; arias and ensembles are accompanied by other soloists with scat singing or

echoes of the text. But one soon gets used to that.

No less successful is the pastiche da Ponte. Cherubino returns from the wars, on the "isole Malvine", with the intention of claiming Barbarina, but the Count, who is also now after Barbarina, tries to get rid of him as page to Don Ottavio, visting this slightly foreign territory with his newly-espoused Donna Anna: the presentation of these two as pious grotesques is one of the opera's best moments. Don Ottavio is only too willing to take on the lad; Donna Anna similarly falls for Barbarina.

Eventually, however, it is revealed, with a certain winking of likelihood, that Cherubino is the son of the Count and Countess, born before their marriage without the Count's knowledge, while Barbarina turns out to be the daughter of Bartolo and Marcellina. All ends happily with Cherubino and Barbarina set fair to be wed, the Count and Countess more firmly reconciled, and Don Ottavio finding a soulmate in Don Basilio.

All that is missing is a girl for Donna Anna and Mozart's genius. Swayne wisely does not attempt the elaborate finales of

his model, or any developed musical numbers, and his plan only begins to come undone when his libretto calls for a certain complexity, as it does in the arias for the Countess and Barbarina, or when there is no Mozartian parallel, as there is not for the swordfight.

The composer conducts a polished evening, wittily produced by Michael Hunt and with excellent performances from Linda Heberd as a plangent Cherubino, Birgitte Angsmyr as a sweet Barbarina and David Aldred as a perfectly outrageous Ottavio.

Paul Griffiths

While Galina Panova stars in the London production of *On Your Toes* her husband Valery Panov is busy with an ambitious plan in Belgium. At the beginning of this season he took over the direction of the Royal Ballet of Flanders, based in Antwerp, and he makes no bones about his aim of building it into a company of world class in the same way that John Cranko did two decades earlier with the Stuttgart Ballet.

He starts with one advantage that Cranko lacked. Antwerp already has an outstanding ballet school that has produced a number of star dancers for companies as diverse as Festival Ballet, Netherlands Dance Theatre, Béjart's Ballet of the Twentieth Century and the West Berlin Deutsche Oper. Some of the best of them, the brothers Tom and Ben Van Cauwenbergh and the brilliant young Koen Oozia, are back in Antwerp (with the Cauwenbergh wives, the former Festival Ballet principals Vivien Loeber and Andria Hall) at the head of the company.

Under its founder and previous director, Jeanne Brabant, the Flanders Ballet had an eclectic repertoire combining works by guest choreographers with creations by several local hands. By appointing Panov, with his track-record of dramatic block-busters including *The Idiot* and *War and Peace*, Antwerp has indicated that it would like a change of diet.

Panov's first two productions follow his frequent practice of starting from a literary source. *Three Sisters* is a restaging of a work he first put on for the Royal Swedish Ballet in 1983; he defines it as a ballet fantasy after Chekhov's play. *Romeo and Juliet* was created specially for Antwerp to the Prokofiev score. Now Panov is busy preparing *Le Sacre du printemps* - a score he first tackled at the Deutsche Oper in 1977.

Three Sisters is set to piano music by Rachmaninoff, and 32, and four dances from Op. 23 and a few other pieces. The soloist, Robert Groslos, is visible to the audience on a raised platform in



Vivien Loeber marvellously passionate with the lyrical Ben Van Cauwenbergh in *Romeo and Juliet*

John Percival assesses the impact of Valery Panov on the Royal Ballet of Flanders in Antwerp

The high ambition to emulate Cranko

the orchestra pit, with an old-fashioned lamp and a vase of flowers on his instrument just as if he were playing in the sisters' drawing room, and immediately before the interval he goes on stage to share drinks with the cast.

The ballet consists mostly of solos and duets to convey the nature and relationships of the characters. The delicate romance between Irina and Tuzenbach is contrasted with the wild abandon of Masha's affair with Vershinin, whose duet has an exuberant bravado brilliantly carried off by Vivien Loeber and Tom Van Cauwenbergh. Brother Ben sustains Tuzenbach's lyricism (with Panova at the earliest performance), and Marina Nicolau conveys Olga's growing loneliness touchingly.

Although not trying to follow the play's plot in detail, Panov chose some key phrases and passages from the text which he

requires the cast to speak. This, he says, was largely to help them build up an understanding of the characters, and the amount of speaking has been cut down since the premiere. Some of the dancers seemed a little embarrassed at having to speak lines, or even just the odd word or two, but if the procedure contributed to the expressiveness of their performances it was worthwhile.

In *Romeo and Juliet* again the playing of the roles was notably vivid. One of the ways in which Panov has tried to escape from the shadow of the Soviet productions with which he grew up, and to find a new choreographic interpretation, is by bringing down the age of the characters, although he could equally well argue that fidelity to Shakespeare's intentions demanded that anyway. For Juliet especially (Vivien Loeber marvellously passionate in the first cast) he has found dances

of an almost stumbling gaucheness at first which become swift and sure only with her growing love.

Andria Hall and, later, Galina Panova will also be dancing this role, but so far there is only one Romeo, Ben Van Cauwenbergh, with his blond hair permed to give a look of soft innocence - although a strong, impetuous character comes through that appearance. Some of the almost fierce partnering in the duets for the lovers is echoed harshly in the way Capulet pulls his daughter about when trying to force her into the arranged marriage.

Capulet's most memorable moment, however, is the look of scorn with which he pushes his wife away as she tries to cling to him in her excess of grief for Tybalt's death. The sense of a relationship warmer than aunt and nephew comes over more briefly and incidentally than in the MacMillan version - and it is less surprising with a Tybalt as hot and overwhelming as this one.

Tom Van Cauwenbergh is arguably the best Tybalt in any of the ballets on this subject. You can see in the depth and detail of the performance that it is a role that Panov himself would have liked to play in his younger days. What is remarkable about it is the way he has called upon a powerful dance technique and allied it to a heaviness such as you can see in Yermolov's acting in the old film of the Bolshoi Ballet with Ulanova. This is a tremendous, blazing account of the character, full of danger.

Obviously Panov has the dancers here for the nucleus of an impressive company; also the flair, eagerness and care to bring out the best in them. Whether the rest of the company is yet even potentially of the same level rests unproven, partly because the choreography, for the groups, although lively and full of energy, is less striking in its detail.

That is something Panov will need to develop if he is to achieve his ambitious self-imposed task.

Next the cast of six make similar obsessive patterns, simultaneous but scarcely relating from simple dance steps. Finally, forming a line, they gradually progress round the stage by a process of each in turn carrying another to the head of the file. Ingenious, and so entirely boring that the audience could hardly raise a single curtain call.

The *Loco* part of the title, we are told, is meant to imply both madness and locomotion. The *Coco* part is an unjustified insult to Chanel, since the usually admirable designer Patrice Marto has copied only superficial resemblances in the women's suits - unless it is the making that is so disastrous.

His piece falls into three sections. First the women perform repeated gestures of rubbing at their skirts, adjusting a blouse, making as if to paint their faces or shake water from their hands, and other clichés of domestic life, interrupted by the men who sluttishly stroke, pat or fondle them. The movement patterns eventually build a formal structure, but have negligible interest as a theatrical presentation.

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Television
Circus of disaster

the lawyers 60 per cent of any damages. There was also an influx of professional thieves.

As the outsiders came in, the population moved out. The government's immediate reaction had been that the factory would not continue to manufacture pesticide. Then it was discovered that the efficient way to remove the remaining gas was to complete the conversion process.

The Chief Minister of the state, Mr Arjun Singh, came to announce that he would stay in the plant while the conversion took place to demonstrate his faith in its safety. The population, beyond reassurance, accelerated its evacuation. The

It is only a matter of weeks since 45 tonnes of poisonous gas "licked its way" over the wall of the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, and turned this city of the lakes into a gas chamber. Some 2,500 people died and the city's hospitals are still coping with the casualties. The gas affects the eyes, the throat, the lungs and, finally, because of shortage of oxygen, the brain.

On the night of December 3, said Police Superintendent Swaraj Puri, in BBC's *Real Lives* report on *The Poisoned City* last night, the panic had been "intense". Public officials had fled but the superintendent, himself affected, stayed at his post.

It was three days before the full scale of the disaster became apparent. Bhopal became a kind of circus. Journalists and American lawyers, the "jet-set ambulance chasers", flew in, the latter to encourage sufferers to sign contracts which would give

Anyway the shoes and hats look wrong too, and all the cast stand so sloppily that they would hardly make anything of the real things if they had them.

I see that the score, commissioned from one David Owen (no relation, I assume) and played on synthesizers by him and Glyn Perrin, has a separate title, *Regimes of Pleasure*. More regime than pleasure, I think.

In the more choreographic half of the evening's presentation, Michael Clark's *P2 X U* distinguished with its new cast not because women replaced the men, but because the sharp

movements made for Lloyd Newson look pointless when done with Annelies Stoffel's extraordinary softness.

Dan Waggoner's *Spiked Sonata* was performed with more enthusiasm than assurance; Lindsey Butcher and Tam came off best among the cast because they danced it straight instead of munging, and let the dances provide the fun.

In spite of a high-flow programme note about theatrical environments, presentation is perfunctory. Perhaps it would be better to concentrate on pulling up the dancing.

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plant had initially been declared non-noxious and the area around the site designated as residential. It consisted mainly of a shanty town, which took the worst of the escape.

A state directive that the factory should be moved had somehow been ignored. Now the population shunned even the hastily erected "camps" not having "faith" that anything would be done for them.

Three safety systems had failed on the night of the world's worst industrial disaster. A journalist, Mr Raj Kumar Keswani, told how he had seen it coming. He had written an article headlined "Save this City" in 1982, following it with letters to the Chief Minister and the Supreme Court. All had been ignored.

It was a grim programme, well produced by Richard Taylor, written by N. K. Singh and narrated by Iain Cuthbertson.

Dennis Hackett

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THE COMPETITION CAN'T COMPETE

Even in mixed driving, semi-laden, Ford calculate a one-tonne Transit Di is capable of 36 mpg.*

Over 25,000 miles – less than a year's driving for many "trunking" vans – such miserly thirst makes the Di about £150 cheaper to run than the next best fuel efficient van on the market.

It really is like having every eighth gallon free.

It's also like having your cake and eating it. So simple is the new engine that it cuts overheads as well as consumption: so efficient is it that all the familiar drawbacks of diesel van operation are removed at a stroke.

MORE POWER FROM LESS FUEL

Gone is the glow-plug, the waiting and wondering about ignition. Gone, too, is the ponderous two-stage combustion process of indirect injection, which blows so many unburnt hydrocarbons out through the exhaust and gives diesel its "smelly" reputation.

The development by Ford of "swirl" technology (see diagram) enables faster, more thorough mixing of air with fuel, and their combustion a split-second later in the one place where energy can be translated directly into output.

The piston crown.

You feel the benefits where they count most: under your right foot and in your wallet.

For while the Di sips less than any comparable diesel, it revs more freely and develops maximum torque higher in the power band. At the same time, careful choice of gear ratios means that it drives and accelerates like a petrol engine.

WHAT'S A GARAGE?

It's no quicker into the garage, however.

Simple oil and filter changes at 6,000 miles, and major service intervals only at 12,000, make the Di as cheap to run as it is to fuel.

More than £130 million has been invested by Ford in giving the Di its unique blend of economy with performance, so it's hardly surprising the others have some catching up to do.

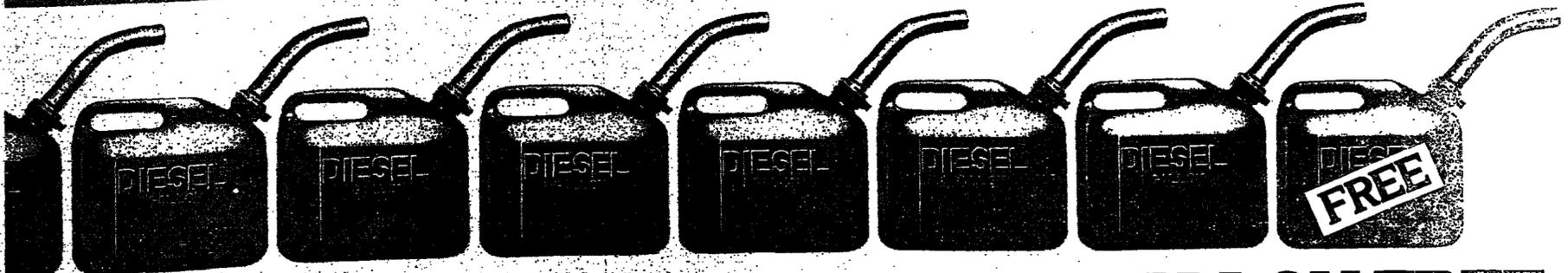
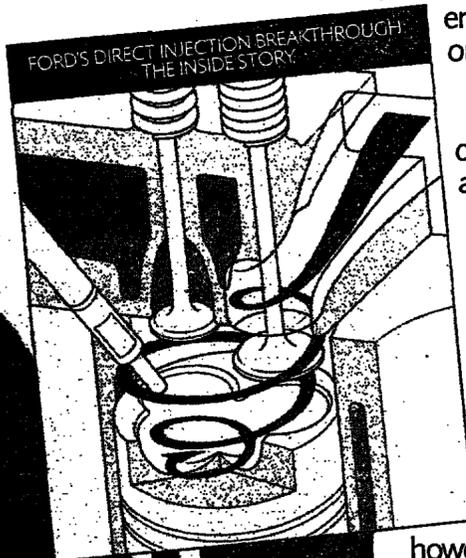
With fuel the price it is, though, can you afford to wait?

FORD TRANSIT



FORD CARES ABOUT QUALITY.

*Fuel economy figures are an average of the ELA urban cycle and a constant 56 mph, and both performance and fuel economy are measured and calculated by Ford Motor Company Limited in line with EEC procedure 80/1268/EEC, or manufacturers published figures.



IT'S LIKE HAVING EVERY EIGHTH GALLON FREE.

Quiet tycoon who is pressurizing Dunlop

A famous name and a famous face figure widely in the financial Press this week, and will continue so to do for the next fortnight at least.

The famous name is that of Dunlop, the world-renowned tyre company now undergoing an extensive retreat at the hands of a consortium of banks to whom Dunlop owes over £100 million it cannot pay. The famous face is that of Sir Michael Edwardes, the scourge of the motor industry unions, whom the banks have put up as chairman of Dunlop in the hope that Sir Michael can do another BL.

Yes, Dunlop now seems even more anguished than before the bank rescue package was unveiled. And pictures of Sir Michael show him looking uncharacteristically at bay. The reason? Breathing down Sir Michael's neck, in the personal and the corporate sense, are another name and another face considerably less celebrated, but no less - and some would say - even more formidable.

The face and name are those of Sir Owen Green of BTR Industries, information which in coming weeks would still leave many people outside the City and a highly-specialized area of engineering, asking - quite legitimately - "Sir Owen who of what?"

Sir Owen and BTR are making characteristically audacious, contested bid for Dunlop just as the newly-installed Sir Michael prepares for the Dunlop annual general meeting on February 8. This is the meeting at which Sir Michael was confident that shareholders would approve his appointment, the bank rescue package (and his controversial personal package of share options).

The short answer to the "who" and the "what" of Sir Owen Green and BTR is that he is the man who in the space of 15 years has created and led a tightly-knit group of financially-motivated men who have turned a small, broke engineer-

The Times Profile Sir Owen Green

ing firm into a consistently highly-profitable multinational, one of the top ten British industrial combines, and heading for the top five.

Quietly, tenaciously stalking, and then gulping down lacklustre companies often in unspectacular areas of business, Sir Owen and his team have made these companies pay, and, BTR - originally the Birmingham Tyre and Rubber Company - now employ more than 60,000 people.

Sir Owen (who was knighted last year for services to industry) does

6 He does not welcome interviews or publicity of any kind

not welcome interviewers or indeed publicity of any kind. "We have approached him a number of times and, although I have tried to make contact with his secretary, it's quite extraordinary... all his staff seem to be quite elusive." This, a rather pained editor of *Who's Who*, explaining why it's no use looking for Sir Owen Green in her publication. She adds: "He might just be frightfully shy and retiring."

Those remarks are likely to have Sir Owen, a serious but not solemn man, falling about laughing. Shy and retiring he never was. "He thinks the company is greater than the man," says an associate.

In person and in motion, however, Sir Owen is more impressive than intimidating, although this is due more to manner than to

physique. "Nobody you would spot in a crowd," says a colleague of this 39-year-old, who is of middling height, with mousey hair and not much of it, pale blue eyes, all set off by those awful, baggy British business suits, of which the kindest remark that I've heard is that those worn by the BTR finance director, Norman Ireland, are even worse.

"You always hear him before you see him," says one. "A bundle of nervous energy," says another. "I don't think of him as an accountant (which is how he began) - you feel much more, when you're with him, that you're with a top-notch salesman."

Much though Sir Michael Edwardes may be smarming this week, it is hard to find anybody who speaks with rancour of Sir Owen, even those who have clashed with him in business. He is a great delegator, if one who holds BTR people to account for their responsibility. He can talk easily to anybody. Though brimful of ideas himself, he is a listener. If he doesn't like what he hears, the reaction can be explosive, but then, says someone who knows him well, "It's all over, forgotten."

A major City figure who clashed with Sir Owen (and came off worse) observes: "He is an impressive man," adding "He isn't as overpowering as some people one could think of. He gives the impression of... a man who knows his mind, says what he has to say, simply and effectively and persuasively. Not somebody who hogs the whole conversation. He has a very proper appreciation of his achievements and any views which he has to express, but he also listens to what other people have to say."

He was born in Stockton-on-Tees, Andy Capp country. After Oxford and wartime Navy service in small boats, he qualified as a chartered accountant and until the mid-Fifties practised with Charles Wakeling & Co in the City. But Owen Green is an action man, and wanted to put numbers to work. He joined one of the firms Wakeling audited, a hydraulics business called Oil Feed Engineering, where by his own account he became "financial director and general factotum."

"When BTR's chairman, the late Sir Walter Worboys, bought Oil Feed, he also bought Owen Green. Sir Walter, himself a knockabout sort of chap, spotted Green's flair for motivating everybody from the boardroom to the shopfloor and Green was on his way."

He works from an uncluttered office on the top floor of the BTR HQ in Victoria on the desk there is an "In" and "Out" tray but little else, not even pictures of Dorothy, Lady Green and their two sons and daughter. He lives at Upper Warrington in Surrey, and plays golf, a friend says, not as he conducts business, but "for the relaxation and the love of it."

6 I won't say he's anti-Establishment, but BTR is not even a member of the CBI

On taking over a company, Sir Owen, the man who himself was once taken over, rarely sacks the infantry and he will even keep the more promising of the directors who got the company into the position whereby it was meat for BTR.

Sir Owen's way with managers is that of delegation and autonomy, but within targets set by himself and the BTR HQ team. Says someone else: "He's never satisfied."

His friend and colleague of 20 years, Sir David Nicolson, says: "He doesn't have any patience at all with talking-shops and establishment activities - BTR is not even a member of the CBI. I won't say he's anti-Establishment, but he thinks that the job is for people to get on and run their businesses."

Sir Owen, says Sir David, is not even keen on corporate charitable donations. "He says we give BTR shareholders the best possible deal, and the maximum appreciation of their holdings, and then it's up to them what charity they support." However, in 1983 the group gave nearly £50,000 to charity: no political contributions are recorded.

BTR is an all-pervasive force in everyday life, but hardly anybody - except the likes of Sir Michael Edwardes - would notice it. You



Sir Owen Green: 'A top-notch salesman'

don't as a rule buy goods marked "made by BTR": you buy goods made from BTR products.

Were a lady to use her Mat West cash card at a dispenser in Victoria, the odds are the service till would be made by BTR's mouldings company. Were she overcome by terminal ennui by the sight of BTR's derelict frugal offices nearby, the ambulance might have a BTR radiator grille, and the vehicle would fall apart if all the BTR components were taken away; and is probably insured with a BTR subsidiary, if the fan belt went, the driver might ask to borrow the lady's Pretty Polly (BTR) tights as an emergency replacement. In hospital, she might be treated with BTR medications by doctors wearing BTR anti-static surgical wellies, and while away her convalescence reading BTR books from Heinemann, Pan or Secker & Warburg, the Booker prizewinner, J. M. Coetzee's *The Life and Times of Michael K*, perhaps.

Those who do not meet Sir Owen Green through business have little

chance of finding out about the man, but not because he is shy.

He's very busy, and he wants BTR to be around, and alternately feared and respected, long after he has departed the scene.

He and BTR first frightened the chairmen and boards of first-rank British companies less than two years ago. Sir Owen and his small team of crack executives launched a dawn raid on the conglomerate Thomas Tilling. The £660 million bid, then the biggest in the history of the City, was bitterly contested. It also highlighted the Sir Owen/BTR style.

Sir Owen and his pack operate from Silverlight House, a small, unimpressive example of post-war taste just off the grimy Vauxhall Bridge Road. The HQ probably houses fewer than 100 people, so lean is the centre, and so devoted and autonomous are the group's many, many mansions. Tilling's then chairman, Sir Patrick Meaney, operated from Crewe House, an opulent 18th-century house in

HIS LIFE AND CAREER

Sir Owen's curriculum vitae, written by Sir Owen himself, is as follows:
 Born: 14 May, 1925, Stockton-on-Tees
 Age: 59
 Married: 2 daughters, 1 son
 Relaxation: Bad golfer; good reader
 1942-48: Navy service, including Oxford, Small Boats, UK and Indian Ocean.
 1947-58: After qualifying as a chartered accountant, practised in a City partnership.
 1958: Joined Oil Feed Engineering as financial director and general factotum.
 1958: Oil Feed Engineering acquired by BTR.
 1958-66: Various appointments in grass roots of BTR's business.
 1966: Appointed assistant managing director.
 1967: Appointed managing director.
 1984: Appointed chairman and chief executive.

Mayfair since put up for sale by the victorious BTR.

Tilling was off form and trading figures had been unimpressive: BTR was the opposite. Tilling argued that it was in distribution, where margins were lower than in BTR's speciality, manufacturing. Sir Owen said, in effect, "Pull the other one." He claimed that his team could get a better return on sales than Tilling's management, and such is Sir Owen and BTR's track record that shareholders voted with their pens - even though the mighty Pru backed Tilling. In 1982, BTR's pre-tax return was 14.7 per cent, Tilling's 2.2 per cent.

It is the return on sales idea that has led Sir Owen to Dunlop, a company that operates in the area where BT began, but to singularly less effect. "They're buying for around £30 million, about £1.3 billion of sales which are making nothing," says one City analyst. "BTR's sales last year were over £3 billion - if they get Dunlop (as the analyst thinks Sir Owen will) they're adding £1.3 billion, a third to that, for only a one per cent increase in the equity."

The reason that Sir Owen can pitch his opening offer so low (fifteen more than the sum spent on fighting the Tilling battle by the two contestants) is one of timing. He didn't bid before Dunlop went into intensive care, because an agreed bid would have cost more than the £33.5 million now offered, and had Sir Owen fought a contested bid at that time he would not have known exactly how much of a can of worms he was buying.

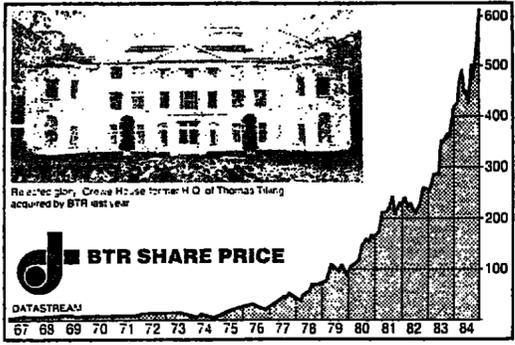
But now, after the banks have done all their sums and made them public, BTR knows, the shareholders know and it's all down to whether the shareholders-cum-creditors think they're likely to see their money back quicker with Sir Michael than Sir Owen.

Ross Davies

BTR's financial record

The graph (right) shows BTR's share price since Sir Owen Green became managing director of the group in 1967. The table outlines BTR's financial history since the 1970s.

	Sales (£m)	Pre-tax profit (£m)
1970	37.7	2.9
1971	50.4	3.6
1972	56.3	4.4
1973	70.4	6.0
1974	110.5	9.9
1975	151.8	16.0
1976	212.4	25.2
1977	247.9	29.7
1978	385.8	42.5
1979	432.6	57.2
1980	509.8	70.3
1981	557.5	90.1
1982	724.9	106.7
1983	1,969.5	170.6



Self defence on the battlefield

Every schoolboy learns that the introduction of overarm bowling in cricket produces a faster ball and a higher bounce. By 1835 bowlers' arms had legally risen above their shoulders, their delivery was erratic, consequently players had to defend themselves with makeshift leg pads and gloves.

John Burnett and John Griffiths of the Science Museum have recently completed a study of the history of the protective clothing worn by the players of today's fast and furious game.

The earliest batting pads to survive, used by Fuller Pilch of the great Kent XI in 1840s, are in the pavilion at the St Lawrence ground in Canterbury. Considered unsporting for the bowler to face, they were worn inside the trousers.

Cries of "not cricket!" for such attire - including cork and whalebone leg guards, wicket keepers' gauntlets and kneepads and a full-length jacket with a



pocket handkerchief "private guard" - were silenced when a batsman was killed by a bouncer at Lords in 1870. 100 years before Mike Brearley first appeared in his reinforced plastic cap.

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FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: MUSEUMS and GALLERIES

A case study

Imagine the potential hazards of sending a picture abroad - falling off the back of a lorry, waiting on the airport tarmac in the pouring rain, a misplaced prod from a fork-lift truck and a change in climate from frost to monsoon.

Simulating such conditions, Sarah Stanforth of the National Gallery's scientific department devised a series of rigorous tests for the new specially-designed packing cases used to transport the nation's masterpieces.

Built in phenolic-coated or double-faced aluminium plywood lined with closed-cell polyethylene foam, they have so far proved 100 per cent successful.

Although the picture is held securely in the case, problems of vibrations within the canvas itself remain. Further tests are taking place to reduce canvas movement and help make Rembrandt's ride smoother.



In the flurry of arrangements for the christening robes of Prince Henry, the Princess of Wales may not have been aware of the precedent set by a royal ancestor.

Recent research at the Museum of London on Queen Victoria's wedding dress and lace has revealed that the Queen wore the same lace at the christening ceremonies of all her eight children, except that of the Prince of Wales in 1842.

Hand-stitched by over 200 women in Honiton, the richly detailed lace was added to her dress on each occasion. Contrary to popular myth the lace was not buried with the Queen but remains with the Royal family, as does the much-loved christening robe first made for the Princess Royal in 1841.

Sarah Brown

Watching you, watching them



Lost visitors

Some interesting facts and figures about the museum-going public emerge from the recently published survey by Patrick Heady. In the three institutions under scrutiny, an average of 36 per cent of their visitors were UK residents. The V & A is more popular with women (57 per cent female visitors, 43 per cent male), the Science Museum enjoys the youngest visiting public (over 35 per cent are under 21) and the National Railway Museum in York had the highest number of first-time visitors (64 per cent).

Freeze drying their assets

The next time you reach for a cup of coffee think of Pete Marsh. Pete (as he is affectionately known) is the British Museum's recently discovered 2,500-year-old Lindow Man found in a peat bog last August. He is about to be freeze-dried in much the same way as instant coffee.

Freeze-drying is a technically simple and efficient way of removing water from an organism to prevent bio-deterioration or rot. The subject - whether a



Lindow Man discovered in a Cheshire bog

Hoping to curb theft, fire and other possible disasters which endanger our art treasures, the International Committee on Museums Security proposed at their September symposium to produce a series of booklets which will deal with individual security problems in museums and galleries.

Subjects such as internal security, fire prevention and alarm devices will come under the committee's scrutiny.

Criminal damage remains high on their list: how can museums prevent those who slash paintings or break off souvenirs from statues? Closed circuit television and electronically-controlled doors can help - but ultimately it comes down to the ever vigilant warden on the beat.

It appears however that regardless of sex or age, visitors to these two London museums encounter the same problem. Nearly 80 per cent of enquiries put to museum staff were not about exhibits themselves, but simply how to find them.

moreover... Miles Kington

Nice leg work, wooden y'know

"Meanwhile, the crime rate has slipped in the Thames Valley. It's been virtually no crime reported to us. Burglars realize how easy it is for us to follow their footsteps in the snow," said a spokesman. (The Standard)

Detective-Tracker Sedgwick often heard his fellow-men complain that they were being replaced by machines. He felt even harder done by; he was being replaced by dogs. He had spent a lifetime learning to read and follow tracks, only to find that dogs could do it twice as fast as he could. What he dreaded above all was a snow-pour of drought, when the ground was so hard you could hardly find a footprint in the whole Thames Valley, though the dogs could still smell the scent.

What he prayed for was a snowy winter. And now he had got it, the crime rate was slumping. He could hardly believe his bad luck. The only crime reported for days was a small smuggling in the fields near Slough so Detective-Tracker Sedgwick (the last one of that rank left in the Force) had made sure he got there as quickly as possible.

"What do you make of the tracks, Sedgwick?" said Sergeant Trotter. "The dogs couldn't pick up anything."

"I'm not surprised," said Sedgwick. "What do dogs know about shoe fashions? These prints belong to a man in his mid-thirties, wearing size 10 brogues."

"He is also wearing a green overcoat, fur hat and gloves. He is a foreign member of the diplomatic corps and smells of drink."

"You deduce all that from his footprints?"

"Hardly," said Sedgwick. "These are the tracks of the victim, to whom I have just been talking for five minutes. Now, these are the tracks of the assailant, and most unusual they are, too. He was only wearing a left shoe. Size eight, suede."

"Barefoot on the right, was he?"

"No. He has a wooden leg."

"Pull the other one, Sedgwick."

The next crime to which the Thames Tracker was summoned involved 3,000 people. There had been some fighting after a reserve match at Spurs, and somebody for a joke asked Sedgwick along to look at the footprints. It took him three

days, but finally he made his report.

"There were 1,500 with size eights, 700 size nines, 800 size tens, 60 pairs of bedroom slippers, three women in high heel shoes - and a man with a wooden leg! So now we know that the man who did the Slough mugging was a Spurs supporter!"

"Get out," said Sergeant Trotter. "I suppose you'll be telling me next the wooden leg was also the weapon."

"Of course it was," said Sedgwick, surprised. "I thought we all knew that."

"And who the hell would want to disguise himself as a man with a wooden leg?"

"I would," said a tall figure coming through the door, wearing a Spurs rosseto and carrying what looked like a long woolly rolling-pin. It was Inspector Rodney Antelope, top drama

coach in the Police Force and the greatest master of disguise the police had ever known. "I have been tracking a top-level spy for the last three weeks, from Slough to Tottenham, and your blundering investigations have not made it any easier."

"As for you, Sedgwick..." The Top Tracker gulped. "... You are the first intelligence man in the police I have met for months. I want you to join me on the case, at least till the snow goes - Inspector-Tracker Sedgwick!"

"Just a moment," growled Trotter. "If you're the bloke with the wooden pin, I'll have to arrest you for assault."

"Don't you know anything about tracks?" cried Sedgwick. "It was Antelope who was being attacked by the foreign diplomat - he defended himself with his leg, but at least you've got the diplomat."

"Actually, I let him go," admitted Trotter. "Sorry."

"Cretin!" cried Antelope. "Come on, Sedgwick, we'll have to start all over again. Here, take this pair of crutches and follow me."

Do you like dressing up and playing games? We've got always borrowing daddy's - or mummy's clothes - as a child? Then why not have a job in the police for you? Just write to Scotland Yard.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 552)

ACROSS
 8 William Booth's group (9,4)
 9 N American Rep. (4,1)
 10 Complicated procedure (9)
 11 Eight musicians (5)
 13 Shoulder blade (7)
 16 Implore (7)
 19 State vessel (5)
 22 Overseer (9)
 24 Mother (3)
 25 Rebuttal (13)

DOWN
 1 Pseudonym (6)
 2 Suplee (6)
 3 Strangling collar (8)
 4 Funeral chants (6)
 5 Indian copper coin (4)
 6 Gilding gold (6)
 7 Doglike pack animal (6)
 12 Stage signal (3)
 14 Atmosphere (5)
 15 Hang behind (3)

16 Findamentalists (6)
 17 Lethargic (6)
 18 Colture setting (6)
 20 Spy (6)
 21 Northern slant (6)
 23 Unconvinced (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 551
 ACROSS: 1 Chukka 4 Livery 7 Rap 8 Additive 9 Lined 13 Del 16 Holy Communion 17 Dud 19 Lingua 24 Campaign 25 Post 26 Helms 27 Gump
 DOWN: 1 Cure 2 Unkilled 3 Avail 4 Lender 5 Vague 6 Remise 10 Excel 11 Lemon 12 Deuce 13 Privilege 14 Tonic 15 Thud 16 Usage 20 Idiot 21 Genie 22 Span 23 Blah

BOOKS

A cool and lucid view of Oxford English

James Fenton on an English book by the Editor of the Oxford Dictionaries

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE By Robert Burchfield Oxford, £9.50

Dr Burchfield, the Chief Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, has allowed himself some 170 pages for a general account of the English language. This is a subject of passionate interest to many amateurs...

Most arguments about grammar, punctuation, and language are in fact pure expressions of power relations. My editor, say, is sitting in his office feeling that control of his newspaper is slipping away from him...

A story to experience. Joseph Roth wrote of his Confession of a Murderer, rather than to hear. Yet we do hear the confession as if the Ancient Mariner himself had stopped one of us in a Russian émigré bar in Paris to tell his Faustian tale of working for the Tsarist secret police...

A Faustian tale of spies and moral doubt Andrew Sinclair

CONFESSION OF A MURDERER By Joseph Roth Chato & Windus, £8.95 THE DUCHESS'S DIARY By Robin Chapman Faber, £8.95 STAR TURN By Nigel Williams Faber, £9.95 THE NAYLORS By J. I. M. Stewart Gollancz, £7.95

who entertained Cervantes and was misrepresented in Don Quixote has kept a diary. With dazzling skill in historical evocation and narrative, he has made to caper through these pages, exposing the bleeding sutures on her thighs to astonished dinner guests and becoming the laughing stock of Spain.

An Irish Parnassian at work

In a fine critical distinction in one of his letters, Gerard Manley Hopkins divides the language of verse into two kinds. The first is poetry proper, the language of inspiration - what he referred to elsewhere as "The roll, the rise, the carol, the creation." The second kind he calls Parnassian.

Parnassian, Hopkins says, can be spoken only by real poets, but it is not in the highest sense poetry, being "spoken on and from the level of a poet's mind, not, as in the other case, when the inspiration, which is the gift of genius, raises him above himself." Parnassian, in other words, is what a poet writes when he tries to write a poem. The inspired poem comes at its own will, though of course only to those with the craft to catch it.

Now it seems to me that much of the work in Seamus Heaney's Station Island (Faber, £2.95 paperback) - the sixth collection of verse by a writer often hailed as the best Irish poet since Yeats - is a good but sad example of what Hopkins meant by Parnassian. The title poem, in particular, an autobiographical quest piece set on an island which has been a place of pilgrimage in Ireland for

POETRY Robert Nye

more than a thousand years, full of ghosts and gulls, falls into "The roll, the rise, the carol, the creation." The second kind he calls Parnassian.

A hurry of bell notes flew over morning hush and water-lily and cornfields, an escaped ringing that stopped as quickly as it started...

These are the opening lines, and it has to be said, I think, that for all their glamour they lack the force to be found in the finest work in this poet's first book Death of a Naturalist (1966), where celebration of the experiences of his childhood gave him good clear subjects in which to dissolve his natural verbal sweetness.

There is something intellectually and emotionally blurred about Heaney just now, an unpleasant excess of charm, a luxury of spiritual self-torment which comes out as linguistic self-caressing. His version of the old Irish work Sweeney Astray (Faber, £2.95 paperback) is no better, indeed it spreads words over the story of Mad Sweeney as if they were butter. This is Kerrygold verse, Irish Parnassian with one eye on the anthologies. I trust that Heaney - an authentic poet who elsewhere reveres what I take to be the integrity of Thomas Hardy - for the "str A, fiddle heart" - gets back in touch with the language of his own inspiration, some music beyond

JUST PUBLISHED The Reign of the Ayatollahs Iran and the Islamic Revolution by Shaul Bakhash ISBN 1 85043 003 9 292 pages £13.95 L.B. TAURIS & CO. Publishers 1 Hamilton Square, Covent Garden, London WC2R 0LU Tel: 01 474 2114 Telex: 262507/2144 Tauris

The blasts of change on defence policy

J. Enoch Powell

NEUTRALITY: A POLICY FOR BRITAIN By Peter Johnson Temple Smith, £9.50, paperback £3.95

There is no mistaking the wind of scepticism which is now blowing through Britain about some of the fundamental postulates of defence policy. It is happening not because, but in spite of, CND and all that jazz. It is the natural consequence of the effluxion of time and the change of circumstances and perspectives since those fundamentals were accepted 30 years ago.

When a wartime Pathfinder with the DSO, DFC and AFC who has been in air attack in Bonn comes forward in 1985 with a crisply argued thesis that Britain would be safer and better off with a declared policy of neutrality, that can rank as a sign of the times.

That the prospect of a nuclear exchange between America and Russia, even if it exists, offers no safety to the European nations and certainly not to America's most obvious European base, Britain, has occurred forcibly to many before the Wing Commander. That Russia has no aggressive or imperialist designs upon Western Europe would have been commonly canvassed opinion long ago, if people were less afraid of being dubbed pro-Communist, and if the political and economic capital invested in the Russian bogey were not so daunting. The proposition that because a British Army of 55,000 with corresponding air and logistical support was promised in 1955, its indispensability in 1985, is not a foregone conclusion, and

the observation that continental powers who spend on defence a much smaller proportion of their national income than we do can scarcely be trembling in the face of imminent invasion from the East, have been aired by others, including this reviewer, for some considerable time.

What Wing Commander Johnson has contributed to the debate is to draw all these details together into a positive advocacy of the advantages of not belonging to the North Atlantic Alliance, and an attempted outline of the sort of (by no means negligible) defence forces which a neutral Britain would logically require. Since the debate on joining the EEC anyone ready to advocate Britain "going it alone" in any context has been treated as a dangerous lunatic; but the armada that sailed to the South Atlantic and re-took the Falklands awakes dormant echoes that have made the public less predisposed to scoff automatically at anything savouring of splendid isolation. Rational argument, at least, has become conceivable and Neutrality, a Policy for Britain opens the debate by neatly turning the tables.

The assumption that the Western Alliance is indispensable to Britain is only the assumption, turned inside out, that Britain is indispensable to the Western Alliance: a flattering unctious that is part and parcel of the carapace Britain constructed after 1945 to shield itself from the pain of being degraded from world power status. "Whether we like it or not, the United Kingdom, in itself, is neither a target nor a factor of any real consequence in the calculations of the greatest powers. It is time that this very significant development was reflected in our thinking about foreign policy." The author has laid his finger on a sensitive but vital spot.

That in my opinion neatly defines the central area of a debate which nothing can prevent from breaking out into the open in the next few years. British defence policy resembles a frozen zone where the ice-pack is beginning to loosen after a generation of immobility. The unchallengeable certainties of the three decades are beginning to crack and melt, and the whole scene is again becoming one of lively motion. At the political level there will be rewards for parties which can take advantage of it.

The unorthodox war

Peter Kemp

ALBANIAN ASSIGNMENT By David Smiley Chato & Windus, £12.95

Professional soldiers tend to write very well about their own experiences, and Colonel David Smiley's Albanian Assignment is a good example. In this unusual book the author, commissioned into the Royal Horse Guards from Sandhurst in 1936, gives us a graphic account by an orthodox soldier of a most unorthodox war.

In the remote and almost unknown country of Albania, among backward, suspicious, and unpredictable tribesmen,

Smiley and his close companion Billy McLean, with a young Sapper officer and a wireless operator carried out almost the only effective guerrilla actions against the Axis forces in South Albania.

Parachuted into northern Greece, they made their way over the Albanian frontier in April, 1943, as the first British mission to enter the country. They had no contacts there, no interpreter, and scarcely a word of Albanian between them.

SOE's tasks in the Balkans, they were told in Cairo, were to harry the Axis forces and cut German supply routes to North Africa; they were to help all resistance groups, irrespective of their politics, who would fight the common enemy. On the map Albania seemed ideal guerrilla country, but Cairo's briefing proved quite unrealistic. It took no account of the bitter rivalry between the various resistance groups, and the implacable hostility of the communists to all the others.

This is a moving story of courage and resolution in the face of constant danger, appalling hardship, and bitter disappointment. Smiley tells it in his own terse, unpretentious style, enlivened by his own dry, gallows humour; his persistent understatement adds immeasurably to the effect.

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Robert Fox

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Robert Fox describes his journeys around Antarctica and the Falklands, and shows how Britain's 'Fortress Falklands' policy could jeopardise the prospects for peaceful development.

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BBC



JUST PUBLISHED The Reign of the Ayatollahs Iran and the Islamic Revolution by Shaul Bakhash ISBN 1 85043 003 9 292 pages £13.95 L.B. TAURIS & CO. Publishers 1 Hamilton Square, Covent Garden, London WC2R 0LU Tel: 01 474 2114 Telex: 262507/2144 Tauris



"Look at this, just look at this - under the circumstances - you've written under the circumstances. Were you never taught? Circumstances are things that stand around - Sto I stand, Circum around. You can't be under something that stands around you, now can you?"

But of course you can very easily be under something that stands around you (an editor, for instance). Imagine circumstances as being like Al Capone and his henchmen. They have just kicked you to the floor and now they stand around you. You are under their control, under their thumb, under them in every way - you are the underdog. But an explanation like this will not convince an editor, for whom the knowledge that one may not write the phrase "under the circumstances" is part of his self-image, part of his tea-boy-to-the-top success story, he remembers when he was on the carpet, all those years ago, in Dundee and his editor was wagging the finger at him saying, "Och laddie, ye'll never make it tae the top if ye write under

the circumstances". And now he's editor. And tomorrow he may not be. So he has to get it off his chest. Quickly.

And so our lives are made a little bit more tiresome, at one remove, by whiskered old tyrants from Dundee - people of whom we have never even heard. Dr Burchfield quotes, with chary approval, Colin McCabe, to the effect that "the Eighteenth-century grammars, and more importantly the views of language and class which underpinned them, continue to terrorize English speech". Once I have learnt of the mere existence of the rule forbidding me to write "under the circumstances", I may (A) be taken in by it - in which case, I am gullible; (B) I may submit, against my better judgement and for the sake of a peaceful life in which case I am terrorized; or (C) I may rebel. What the insidious thing about linguistic prescriptions is that, if we are to ignore them, we feel we have to let people know that we are ignoring

them or we may be mistaken for ignoramuses. I don't often write "under the circumstances". Nor do I ever split an infinitive. But I despise the rulings that forbid me to do either. So, in order not to think of myself as a complete coward, I will stage little linguistic rebellions which I know people will recognize for what they are - like using the expression "any road" instead of "anyway". This does not lead to a good style. Really good style derives from a really good conscience. It will only obey the rules it believes in.

Dr Burchfield does not come from Dundee, but from Wanganui, New Zealand. At the age of 14 he acquired (for this is a genuine tea-boy-to-editor story) a copy of Logan Pearsall Smith's book The English Language, which the present book is designed to replace. While his knowledge of the historical and geographical development of the English language gives Dr Burchfield a calm view of the development of language, and a wariness of false grammars, there are

moments when he surprises one with a poor argument badly expressed.

In his account of the controversy over The Authorized Version and The Book of Common Prayer, for instance, he calls their loss "grievous beyond all knowing." (People often resort to pompous and outmoded language when talking about this subject, just as they do when writing speeches explaining why we have blundered into war). He quotes Eliot's comparison of "Neither cast ye your pearls before swine" with The New English Bible's "Do not feed your pearls to pigs". Eliot has two objections to the second version: "The substitution of 'feed' for 'cast' makes the figure of speech ludicrous." "I should have thought... that the word 'swine' would be understood not only by countryfolk who may have heard of 'swine fever' but even by the urban public, since it is still applied, I believe, to human beings as a term of abuse." The first of these objections is false, although one could certainly argue that "throw" would be a more accurate translation of the original. The second objection is very interesting, since it appears to backfire, implying as it does that the word "swine" meaning "pig", is out of date. Why should Eliot be upset at a new translation which says "pig" where "pig" is meant; and why should Dr Burchfield think him worth quoting on the subject?

The answer is that, once again, an argument about language is a pretext for something else. When it first appeared, people threw up their hands and said what a disappointment the new translation was, as a translation, as a work of literature. What they meant, though, was "What a disappointment the Bible itself is, now that we look at it afresh." Picture-dealers who purchase an obscure old oil painting know that they must choose between the possibility that restoration will reveal a work of high quality and the nightmare that, once they have cleaned off the dirt, there will be no doubt that this is not a masterpiece. It might be better not to restore, just as it might be better not to be too clear in our minds exactly what Jesus, Paul and so forth are supposed to be saying.

Arms and the men at talks

Richard Owen

DEADLY GAMBITS The Reagan Administration and the Stalemate in Nuclear Arms Control By Strobe Talbott Picador, £9.95

This book is timely now that Russia and America have agreed on a framework for new arms talks, and are once again plodding through the minefield of Superpower misunderstandings toward disarmament. Even before the Geneva encounter between Messrs Shultz and Gromyko took place, Deadly Gambits was coming to be seen in America as the seminal text on arms control. It is in effect the inside story, by a senior Time Magazine journalist, of how the Reagan administration spent its first term trying a new approach to arms control and getting nowhere. In Talbott's view, inter-departmental rivalries in Washington helped to bring about the collapse of Soviet-American arms talks in late 1983, even though the primary cause of breakdown was the Russian walkout.

This has not exactly endeared Mr Talbott to Reagan officials; but those less familiar with the intricacies of inter-continental ballistic missiles, throw-weight, and cryptic initials such as SALT, START, INF, and ABM must be grateful for his lucid unravelling of these arcane mysteries. Mr Talbott, who achieved youthful fame as the author of the best-selling memoirs and went on to become Time's Diplomatic Editor, never loses sight of the fact that what the two Great Powers are talking about is different methods of blowing us all up, or avoiding doing so.

Deadly Gambits takes up where his last book on arms control, Endgame: The Inside Story of Salt Two, left off. The villain of the piece is Richard Perle, the Pentagon's most colourful hawk, and the heroes are Paul Nitze, the veteran negotiator, and Richard Burt. Mr Shultz's right hand man at the State Department.

Yet there nags at the mind the uncomfortable question: what exactly is an Inside Story, and how does Mr Talbott know so much about the internal workings of the Administration? On this evidence we are entitled to be sceptical when told that the President's grasp of arms issues is now sophisticated, or that rivalries between his arms-control officials are things of the past. We can only hope that the accusation that Mr Talbott is blurring the line between novel and history does not prevent his sources from giving him an equally frank account of the forthcoming Superpower talks. The Russians after all will reveal nothing or very little; and short of a Krenin revolution no Soviet equivalent of Deadly Gambits will ever appear. What we know, as usual, comes from the United States. If the Russians complain that the result is one-sided, they have only themselves to blame.

Clearing one's mind of cant about slavery

Philip Howard

SLAVERY AND HUMAN PROGRESS By David Brian Davis Oxford, £17.50

Slavery has recently become a fashionable subject of historical studies, especially across the Atlantic. Accordingly it has been tossed about by the winds of fashion and modern ideology and politics. The Sterling Professor of History at Yale, who is in the middle of writing a monumental chronological trilogy on the problem of slavery, has taken time off to shoot down a number of sacred cows and bêtes noires in a philosophical survey of slavery and emancipation from antiquity to our modern notions of freedom and human rights. It is going to annoy sentimentalists who think with their guts rather than their heads.

For example, the book studies in detail the momentous shift from slavery as a progressive institution to emancipation as progress. It may be nice to think of black plantation slavery as an aberration invented by lawless buccaners and lazy New World adventurers. Professor Davis demonstrates that it was a creation of the most progressive people in Europe: Italian merchants; Iberian ex-

plorers; Jewish inventors, traders and cartographers; Dutch, German and British investors and bankers. Black slavery was closely tied to the rise of Europe. The second half of the book examines the dramatic U-turn in the late eighteenth century, led by Britain and based in evangelical Christianity, which invented a new idea of progress. It explores the infinite human capacity for pretending that oppression is good for the oppressed. Davis is an agnostic about progress, as he is about the Victorian God who justified the subjection of backward people to colonial rule for the good of civilization. His book is an admirable demonstration of the virtues of clearing one's mind of cant when dealing with emotional subjects.

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NO APPEAL

Today the House of Lords will decide the future of Clause 22 of the Prosecution of Offences Bill. The clause would enable the Attorney General to refer a Crown Court sentence to the Court of Appeal for that Court to express its opinion as to what the sentence should have been, without altering the sentence in the actual case.

Clause 22 represents part of the package of reforms which Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, announced at the Conservative Party Conference in October 1983 in response to the demand for sterner measures to combat crime, including stiffer sentences for serious and in particular violent crimes. There have been several occasions in recent years when there has been a public outcry over what has appeared to be an inexcusably lenient sentence passed upon a very serious offender, notably in rape cases. Such sentences give rise to serious disquiet about whether the law is giving adequate protection to the public and they can cause a loss of public confidence in the administration of justice. There is at present no mechanism by which a higher court can pass judgment on a sentence of this kind, and the Court of Appeal has to wait for an appeal in another case before it can reaffirm established sentencing criteria.

The proposal would not introduce a right of appeal by the prosecution against sentence - the actual sentence would be unaffected - but it would give the judiciary an immediate opportunity to indicate the proper penalty in future similar cases. The Attorney General has indicated that he would exercise his new power sparingly. Although the proposal has merits, the second reading debate in the Lords uncovered several drawbacks to the scheme. A major concern was that it would involve the prosecution in the sentencing process, something quite alien to our tradition and which, if it is to be introduced into our system at all,

ought not to be brought in by the back door. That is certainly not what the Home Secretary intends, nor would it be so as long as the impetus for a reference to the Court of Appeal came primarily from the public rather than from the prosecution; but there is the risk that a future Attorney General might take a less restrictive view of the purpose of the provision than does Sir Michael Havers.

There is danger that the new machinery might be counter-productive: instead of providing a means of allaying public anxiety, it might provide a stimulus to the media to whip up concern about a growing number of individual sentences. Ministers might find themselves under increasing pressure to take action over unpopular sentences, and the Attorney General might find himself called upon ever more frequently to justify his decision not to refer a particular sentence to the Court of Appeal.

There does not seem to be any evidence that eccentric sentences of the kind which would be the subject of a reference set any precedent. Judges at every level are familiarised with current sentencing policy through the Judicial Studies Board, by courses, seminars, and the dissemination of information. In addition the Lord Chief Justice has laid down sentencing guidelines for various categories of case in a series of important judgments. There is certainly more consistency in sentencing now than in the past, and a grossly over-lenient sentence is readily perceived as such by the judiciary. Since a reference under Clause 22 would not change the sentence in the particular case, it would not achieve much, apart from placating public opinion and giving the Court of Appeal a chance to rebuke the wayward judge. It is highly doubtful whether this should be a function of that over-burdened court. Well intentioned though it may be, Clause 22 ought not to remain part of the Bill.

THE GENERAL'S DILEMMA

With the announcement that parliamentary elections are to be held in Bangladesh on April 6, the first question the country is asking is: Can General Ershad, the military dictator, be trusted to keep his word? Since he first came to power in 1982, overthrowing the elected government of President Sattar, the General has twice promised elections and twice retracted. The problem is that General Ershad is anxious to democratise his government. Free and fair elections would certainly do that. But he is also believed to be equally keen to continue in power. An honest poll might possibly abort that ambition. And therein lies the rub.

The background to this situation can be traced to the creation of the country in 1971. Except for the first four years of its 13-year independent history, Bangladesh has been directly or indirectly ruled by the army. Democracy *per se* has never taken firm root. Yet the blatantly exercised military muscle has always been tempered by the overt acknowledgement of the people's sovereignty. Because independence from Pakistan was won through a long and bloody civil war, which politicized the population and gave them an acute awareness of their power, none of Bangladesh's dictators has been able ultimately to ignore the fundamental rights thus secured. In 1978 the late General Zia-Ur Rahman, who himself seized power in an army coup, sought to legitimize his rule by means of a controlled election. In 1985 General Ershad is simply following the precedent.

The General's original plans scheduled for 1983 were to hold presidential elections followed by a parliamentary poll. This would have given him the presidency before the political parties were really allowed into the contest. As his vehicle he launched his own party, the Janadal (People's Party). But no sooner did he lift the lid on the political campaigning than the politicians accused him of blatant fraud. They demanded the prior lifting of martial law, the holding of parliamentary elections before the presidential one, and the release of political prisoners as the price for their participation. When he seemed to refuse they took their battle onto the streets. As the resulting demonstrations grew, Ershad retreated and hastily postponed the vote.

However, since then General Ershad has been cautiously attempting to restart the electoral process. His dilemma is that he cannot hold elections if the opposition boycotts them, yet at the same time he cannot

afford to concede all their demands. But this time the General has gone farther than ever before. Most political prisoners have been freed, elections for parliament are to precede those for president and he has stripped his cabinet of all Janadal members, thus separating his party from government. Indeed he has even agreed progressively to dismantle the apparatus of martial law, only leaving to himself the guarantee of his position as Chief Martial Law Administrator as his reduced insurance as the poll approaches.

Yet the opposition are still not satisfied. They argue that as long as the General holds elections under some form of martial law he will win them. For they do not believe that he is prepared to lose. And this leaves General Ershad with a seemingly intractable problem. If he were now to give in to this last but most important of opposition demands he would have suffered a severe defeat. In the eyes of his senior officers, many of whom are already doubtful of his concessions and interpret them as weakness, he would then have virtually renounced the military's self-assumed right to manage power. In that event a coup within the military high command could conceivably topple him. And even if that were not to occur, the steady public retreat from his first stand would have so eroded his authority in the country as to leave him a loser in any forthcoming election. For the opposition could justifiably claim victory in undermining military rule before the first ballot was cast.

On the other hand, if General Ershad were to dig in his military boots and refuse to budge, he would find himself forced to hold his cherished elections minus the opposition. In that case they would be widely seen as a farce, and the legitimacy he bankers after would still elude him. In those circumstances he would once again be thrown back on the army for its support. But then rather than prop up a visibly discredited General they might well choose to replace him with another less compromised and more trusted.

As things stand therefore it looks as if General Ershad's only way out may be to withdraw his third successive promise to hold elections. But this time he could lose more than just his word. His prolonged vacillation may also impair his credibility. And if the opposition were to marshal their ranks and bring out their supporters the army might just decide to stand back and let the General go.

Peace prayer link with thanksgiving

From the Reverend Canon G. W. Hart
Sir, It is to be hoped, as John Barry suggests (feature, January 22) that President Reagan may wish to go down in history as the great peace-maker. Other reasons for his readiness to meet Mr Gromyko were the huge Budget deficit, due to the astronomical arms expenditure, and the strength of the peace movement in America and Europe.

There are several negative factors. The previous day Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, stated that the arms bill could not be touched, although cuts in other areas would be painful. Nor can the history of previous multilateral arms negotiations be helpful. One exception was the partial test ban agreement of 1963, but that followed unilateral action by President Kennedy a few months earlier.

There is little encouragement in the negotiators chosen for the task. From Nitz, whom the late John Mendelson MP and I met in Washington during the Vietnam war, would be regarded as a hawk by most British observers. Mr Kampelman comes from the Committee on the Present Danger, probably the most powerful anti-communist grouping in the States, which is saying something.

The most serious obstacle to success, however, is the President's insistence on his Star Wars programme, repeated in his inaugural address. The reported proposal by Mr Dobrynin that it be dropped in exchange for drastic cuts in Soviet missile deployment sounds both generous and sensible to me. If it is not dropped the Soviet Union will be forced to proceed with a similar system herself, or with devising

weapons which could pierce the American curtain, or both. Washington is to devote \$26 billion to research into the mere practicability of the scheme. For Russia to spend an equal amount on preliminaries would divert resources needed for housing, motor cars, consumer goods and agriculture. And there are those in the American Government who would like to see Russia bankrupted in the process. Even if both sides managed to install a complete shield (which is doubtful) the danger of East-West war would still remain.

Lastly there was the statement on television by Malcolm Rifkind, a Foreign Office spokesman who had heard Robert McFarlane, US National Security Adviser, report back to Mrs Thatcher. Mr Rifkind said, with evident pleasure, that British nuclear weapons and bases would be excluded from the negotiations. How is it possible to deal successfully with intermediate range weapons - one of the three issues to be negotiated - if cruise, Trident, Polaris, F-111 bombers and other American bases here are not to be considered?

The hopes of mankind rest to a great deal on even greater pressure from the peace movement in every country. Even a limited agreement would be valuable to start with. As an immediate first step there should be a moratorium on deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe by both NATO and Warsaw.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALL UN (Vice-President, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament),
1 South Drive,
Manchester,
January 22.

From Mr S. G. Williams
Sir, Chancellor Kohl has said that 65 per cent of people living in Germany today do not remember May 8, 1945. With the passing of the years Remembrance Sunday is inevitably becoming increasingly meaningless to more and more people.

It is not time to link November 11 with May 8 and set aside a national day when people could commemorate the years of peace in the form of a Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation in churches throughout the land? This need not hurt the sensibilities of our friends or neighbours.

I believe it would reflect the desire of young and old alike who long to walk the road of peace with freedom.

Yours faithfully,
S. G. WILLIAMS,
21 Bencombe Road,
Purley,
Surrey,
January 19.

From Mrs Anne I. Baker
Sir, As one who has, however unworthily, survived both world wars, I think our celebration of victory should be rather a rededication to the cause of peace and freedom, for which so many of our generation fought and died. The best tribute to their memory would be that they had not died in vain.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE I. BAKER,
60 Hamnam Road,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
January 21.

From Mrs Kate Anstie
Sir, With all the talk of celebrating VE Day, let them not forget VI. It means so much to some of us.

KATE ANSTIE,
23 Old Derry Hill,
Near Calde, Wiltshire.

From Mr John Kelly
Sir, Mr Charles Morrison, MP (January 12), in attributing the Ethiopian famine to over-population, is ignoring the facts. I have worked as a doctor in Ethiopia annually for the last 14 years. Infertility is a much greater problem than any imagined over-population.

The scarcity of people makes it difficult to tackle the tremendously complex business of transportation and communication. Ethiopia is a vast country with much fertile land which is under-ploughed. Not only drought but war have pushed the situation well beyond self-help.

The greedy West have more than plenty, yet the population control lobby would have even the small population of Ethiopia reduce itself still further, to maintain our comforts. Those of us who know and understand the culture and people of Ethiopia are insulted by such strategies.

Let us hope that the wonderful response of the British people will continue and not be diminished by such strategies. Ethiopia needs emergency aid now and long term aid in the future, but now and then, her greatest asset is her people.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KELLY,
18 Hinesham Avenue,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,
January 17.

From Mr Malcolm Harper
Sir, Mr Ted Jackson (January 16) cannot be allowed to get away with confusing and equating tip-and-run and proper cricket.

There is no way in which one-day cricket, played on a limited-over basis, can ever qualify for the latter title since it more closely approximates to what we lesser mortals play on the beach each summer than to anything else, fun as that may be, it is not really cricket. Nor did Sunil

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Issues hanging on Star Wars talks

From Mr Frank Allun
Sir, It is to be hoped, as John Barry suggests (feature, January 22) that President Reagan may wish to go down in history as the great peace-maker. Other reasons for his readiness to meet Mr Gromyko were the huge Budget deficit, due to the astronomical arms expenditure, and the strength of the peace movement in America and Europe.

There are several negative factors. The previous day Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, stated that the arms bill could not be touched, although cuts in other areas would be painful. Nor can the history of previous multilateral arms negotiations be helpful. One exception was the partial test ban agreement of 1963, but that followed unilateral action by President Kennedy a few months earlier.

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The hopes of mankind rest to a great deal on even greater pressure from the peace movement in every country. Even a limited agreement would be valuable to start with. As an immediate first step there should be a moratorium on deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe by both NATO and Warsaw.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALL UN (Vice-President, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament),
1 South Drive,
Manchester,
January 22.

From the Chairman of Council of The Magistrates' Association
Sir, Frances Gibbs's article on January 9 performs a useful service in drawing attention to the importance of compensation for personal injury being ordered in magistrates' courts, and accurately sets out the present state of the law. There are, however, a few matters which I feel are worthy of comment.

Whilst it is true that magistrates were empowered by the Criminal Justice Act 1982 to award compensation up to £2,000, they are also required to have regard to the means of the offender, and in many instances those found guilty of offences against the person have very low incomes.

If the court makes an order which is unrealistically high the victim may be subjected to unnecessary additional distress by the court having created expectations that are incapable of fulfilment. The Court of Appeal has consistently drawn attention to the necessity of the lower courts making orders which can be discharged within a reasonable period.

The guidelines issued by the Magistrates' Association are without doubt substantially less than the

Galleries fearful of art losses

From Councillor James Riley
Sir, I write to express my utter dismay and regret at the announcement of the Government's ceiling on works of art accepted in lieu of capital transfer tax and other tax liabilities.

Like many municipal galleries we have in the last few years benefited immensely from the small handful of works of art which have come our way through this system. It has brought us both pictures of local interest, like the Sefton family portraits for our country house museum, Croxteth Hall, as well as works of European significance, such as the deeply moving Elsheimer of *Apollo and Coronis*.

The system has relieved pressure on our very limited purchase funds. As a result we have been able to conserve them for the acquisition of masterpieces of the order of *The Ashes of Phocion Collected by his Widow*, by Poussin.

The fall in the value of the pound against the dollar, together with rate-capping, will make the task of building a collection worthy of Merseyside and preserving its heritage almost impossible. It will also be difficult for the Walker Art Gallery to suggest, as it has done in the past, that executors might profitably use the "in-lieu" procedure for our mutual benefit.

On the evidence of the comparatively small number of works accepted by the Government in recent years there is nothing to suggest that the cost to the public purse would ever be excessive. I urge the Government to think again about this disastrous step. The amount of revenue forgone in recent years compared with the immeasurable benefit to our collections both national and municipal does not justify such a philistine step.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES RILEY, Chairman,
Arts and Culture Committee,
Merseyside County Council,
County Art Galleries Department,
Walker Art Gallery,
William Brown Street,
Liverpool,
January 15.

Student loans

From the General Secretary of The Universities Central Council on Admissions
Sir, There may be very good arguments for student loans; but one of those put forward by Lucy Hodges (feature, January 14) contains disturbing fallacies. She quotes an argument that "if students were forced to pay back loans they would shop around for the best courses, forcing universities and colleges to compete for customers. This would make them try to improve, and perhaps put on more 'useful courses' such as engineering and technology."

But students "shop around" already: they want the best courses just as universities want the best students. As for "useful courses" a rough calculation shows that two out of every three undergraduates are following studies which either have an obvious vocational content - accountancy, computer studies, engineering, law, medicine - or provide a scientific training which can be applied to practical problems. Those studying engineering and technology account for nearly 15 per cent of the total student body; although numbers have increased, the proportion has changed little in the past 20 years.

A switch from grants to loans is unlikely to affect this subject distribution, which is the long-run generally follows student demand. Perhaps universities know their business better than Mrs Hodges thinks?

Yours faithfully,
RONALD KAY, General Secretary,
The Universities Central Council on Admissions,
PO Box 28,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
January 16.

From the Director General of the Bus and Coach Council
Sir, In the article on bus tests (January 17), Michael Horsnell expressed concern about the safety of Britain's 65,000 buses (and coaches). In the first place it is absolutely clear from Government statements and official figures over many years that the bus or coach passenger is the safest person on the roads in Britain.

It must also be understood that the annual test of a bus or coach is in no way to be compared with the MOT test for private cars. Apart from the safety requirements, which are many times more demanding than for cars, buses and coaches may be failed for unrelated matters such as paint discoloration and other minor non-mechanical items. Therefore, the failure rate should not be related to road safety.

Having said that we are concerned at the inconsistencies in figures given by transport ministers in Parliament. According to Hansard for January 14, 43 per cent of buses and coaches fail their annual test. Yet two months earlier, on November 14, 1984, the figure given in Hansard was less than half this, at 21 per cent.

We all know that you can prove almost anything with statistics. Therefore, it would be unfortunate if your readers were misled by a politically-motivated use of figures into believing that buses and coaches are unsafe, when this is patently not the case.

Yours truly,
DENIS QUITMAN, Director General,
Bus and Coach Council,
Sardinia House,
32 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
January 18.

Cricket, 'proper' cricket

From Mr Malcolm Harper
Sir, Mr Ted Jackson (January 16) cannot be allowed to get away with confusing and equating tip-and-run and proper cricket.

There is no way in which one-day cricket, played on a limited-over basis, can ever qualify for the latter title since it more closely approximates to what we lesser mortals play on the beach each summer than to anything else, fun as that may be, it is not really cricket. Nor did Sunil

objection is to the compulsory element in the licensing system. A further problem arises for low-income people like myself having to pay the fee annually.

If television shops and rental firms were licensed to supply television sets and to collect the BBC fee this could be incorporated into monthly/weekly rental and service payments. Secondly, such licensed suppliers could be authorised to issue TV-only sets where no licence fee would be payable. The BBC could then be left free to set its own fee, based on what the market would bear. It would need to pay a reasonable commission to licensed suppliers for collecting the fee.

As a result the public would retain a real choice on what forms of television it wanted. An advertising-financed service would remain and weekly/monthly payment schemes would make people realise that the BBC was an excellent buy.

An advantage of this proposal is that it would avoid spreading advertising revenue so thinly that neither ITV nor the BBC could provide an adequate service.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR LUESBY,
35 Holland Road,
Exmouth,
Devon,
January 16.

Galvaskar play proper cricket in Calcutta. Indeed, what he did was not cricket at all.

With the pound currently worth less than a rouble and with cricket equated with tip-and-run, what is the old country coming to?

Yours in anguish,
MALCOLM HARPER,
Hon Dogbody,
Newnham Cricket Club,
The Cottages,
Church Lane,
Charlbury,
Oxfordshire,
January 18.

Issues hanging on Star Wars talks

From Mr Frank Allun
Sir, It is to be hoped, as John Barry suggests (feature, January 22) that President Reagan may wish to go down in history as the great peace-maker. Other reasons for his readiness to meet Mr Gromyko were the huge Budget deficit, due to the astronomical arms expenditure, and the strength of the peace movement in America and Europe.

There are several negative factors. The previous day Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, stated that the arms bill could not be touched, although cuts in other areas would be painful. Nor can the history of previous multilateral arms negotiations be helpful. One exception was the partial test ban agreement of 1963, but that followed unilateral action by President Kennedy a few months earlier.

There is little encouragement in the negotiators chosen for the task. From Nitz, whom the late John Mendelson MP and I met in Washington during the Vietnam war, would be regarded as a hawk by most British observers. Mr Kampelman comes from the Committee on the Present Danger, probably the most powerful anti-communist grouping in the States, which is saying something.

The most serious obstacle to success, however, is the President's insistence on his Star Wars programme, repeated in his inaugural address. The reported proposal by Mr Dobrynin that it be dropped in exchange for drastic cuts in Soviet missile deployment sounds both generous and sensible to me. If it is not dropped the Soviet Union will be forced to proceed with a similar system herself, or with devising

weapons which could pierce the American curtain, or both. Washington is to devote \$26 billion to research into the mere practicability of the scheme. For Russia to spend an equal amount on preliminaries would divert resources needed for housing, motor cars, consumer goods and agriculture. And there are those in the American Government who would like to see Russia bankrupted in the process. Even if both sides managed to install a complete shield (which is doubtful) the danger of East-West war would still remain.

Lastly there was the statement on television by Malcolm Rifkind, a Foreign Office spokesman who had heard Robert McFarlane, US National Security Adviser, report back to Mrs Thatcher. Mr Rifkind said, with evident pleasure, that British nuclear weapons and bases would be excluded from the negotiations. How is it possible to deal successfully with intermediate range weapons - one of the three issues to be negotiated - if cruise, Trident, Polaris, F-111 bombers and other American bases here are not to be considered?

The hopes of mankind rest to a great deal on even greater pressure from the peace movement in every country. Even a limited agreement would be valuable to start with. As an immediate first step there should be a moratorium on deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe by both NATO and Warsaw.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALL UN (Vice-President, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament),
1 South Drive,
Manchester,
January 22.

From the Chairman of Council of The Magistrates' Association
Sir, Frances Gibbs's article on January 9 performs a useful service in drawing attention to the importance of compensation for personal injury being ordered in magistrates' courts, and accurately sets out the present state of the law. There are, however, a few matters which I feel are worthy of comment.

Whilst it is true that magistrates were empowered by the Criminal Justice Act 1982 to award compensation up to £2,000, they are also required to have regard to the means of the offender, and in many instances those found guilty of offences against the person have very low incomes.

If the court makes an order which is unrealistically high the victim may be subjected to unnecessary additional distress by the court having created expectations that are incapable of fulfilment. The Court of Appeal has consistently drawn attention to the necessity of the lower courts making orders which can be discharged within a reasonable period.

The guidelines issued by the Magistrates' Association are without doubt substantially less than the

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Yours sincerely,
TREVOR LUESBY,
35 Holland Road,
Exmouth,
Devon,
January 16.

Cricket, 'proper' cricket

From Mr Malcolm Harper
Sir, Mr Ted Jackson (January 16) cannot be allowed to get away with confusing and equating tip-and-run and proper cricket.

There is no way in which one-day cricket, played on a limited-over basis, can ever qualify for the latter title since it more closely approximates to what we lesser mortals play on the beach each summer than to anything else, fun as that may be, it is not really cricket. Nor did Sunil

objection is to the compulsory element in the licensing system. A further problem arises for low-income people like myself having to pay the fee annually.

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Exmouth,
Devon,
January 16.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 24 1905
In 1894 Nicholas II succeeded his father Alexander III as Czar of Russia. Hopes that he would favour reforms were soon dispelled. The government was not only reactionary, but also incompetent, a situation which had led to famine throughout the country. On Sunday January 22 1905 a large deputation of workers gathered outside the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg to present their grievances to the Czar in person. They were met by a force of Cossacks, Uhlans and infantry who fired on the crowds.

TROOPS FIRE ON ST. PETERSBURG CROWD

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS
PARIS JAN 23
Within the brief space of 24 hours Russian autocracy has not only excited the scorn and execration of the whole civilized world, but has alienated what little sympathy it retained in the only country in Europe where, up to yesterday, it still counted friends. It was with grave contentment and frequent exclamations of horror and disgust that the crowd in the street read the harrowing details published in today's papers of the abominations perpetrated yesterday by the Russian soldiery in the streets of St. Petersburg. By this evening the whole French people will be aware that the autocrats who are responsible for Russia's disasters in the Far East have butchered the working men of St. Petersburg wholesale, without anything approaching sufficient provocation. But French eyes-witnesses of what occurred speak for themselves. The correspondents of the Paris papers at St. Petersburg can scarcely be suspected of exaggeration, and this is what the principal among them have to say. When extracts from their narratives have been placed before the readers of *The Times*, the latter will easily conceive the impression which has been produced.

AN UNPROVOKED BUTCHERY.

The correspondent of the *Matin*, who was present during the massacre in the Jardin Alexandre, telegraphs thus: "Two o'clock strikes at the tower of the Admiralty. The soldiers who covered the great square with bayonet fixed on their rifles. Profound silence reigns in this corner which thick snow renders still more melancholy. Suddenly in the garden there is the sound of military firing. The soldiers of the Prochobrensky Regiment, without any summons to disperse, as if playing at bloodshed (*comme à un jeu de massacre*) shoot down the unfortunate people crowded into this space. Several hundred fall. There are more than 150 killed. They are almost all children, women, and young people. It is terrible. Blood flows on all sides. Up to 3 o'clock there is no bloodshed in the populous quarters, but in other suburbs the troops are using their rifles and rifles. At 5 o'clock the crowd is driven back, cut down, and speared on all sides. The people, terror-stricken, fly in every direction. Scared women and children slip, fall, and rise to their feet, only to fall again. The soldiers of the Vasili Ostroff, Everywhere troops and Cossacks. Successive discharges of musketry, shooting down on all sides the terrorized crowd. The soldiers aim at the people's heads, and the victims are frightfully disfigured. A woman falls almost at my side. A little further on I slip on a piece of human brain. Before me is a child of eight years, whose face is no longer human. His mother is kneeling in tears over his corpse. The wounded are lying on the ground, as they drag themselves along leave streams of blood on the snow. I will end my narrative. I am broken-hearted at the unheard-of spectacle of massacre on such a scale. As I write discharges of musketry are heard. The workmen of Vasili Ostroff are being shot down en masse."

Guidance on gulls

From Sir Barnett Cocks
Sir, In his letter of January 10 the Chairman of the Countryside Commission asks Whitehall for a clear lead in the field of wildlife conservation. The absence of any national policy is illustrated by differing attitudes to seabirds in coastal towns. Folkestone's councillors have decided on a "cull" which will involve killing herring gulls in the nesting season next April on the ground that these beautiful birds have become a nuisance, "depriving tourists of sleep, and menacing elderly residents on the Leas". A strong body of opinion in the town is against this proposed slaughter. In Torquay, on the other hand, the local authority has decided that it cannot help those seagullers who object to herring gulls, taking the view that a cull would be both expensive and unlikely to succeed. The Department of the Environment, although aware of this divergence of policy, has expressed no view, beyond saying that it is a matter for the local authorities. Folkestone seeks to destroy wildlife; Torquay to preserve it. Surely there could be some central guidance on this problem? Yours faithfully,
BARNETT COCKS
13 Langford Green,
Champion Hill, SE5,
January 13.

Early birds

From Mr John E. Harvey
Sir, On January 4 we noticed that a collared dove was sitting on two eggs in a nest built in a large pycnanth, against our north wall. The male has alternated with the female to sit on the eggs throughout the ice and snow of recent days. Today, the first, the eggs have been hatched and sitting continues on the second. Surely, this beats the cuckoo! Yours faithfully,
J. E. HARVEY,
Great Elm, 43 Traps Hill,
Loughton, Essex,
January 19.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 23: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London...

dinner with the Council of the Academy at 195 Piccadilly, W1. Her Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of the Academy...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. R. Elder and Mrs J. S. Cox
The engagement is announced between Charles Richard, youngest son of Dr and Mrs P. McA. Elder...

Mr J. N. Milton and Miss J. M. Ormond
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roland Milton...

Memorial service

The Hon Paul Asquith
A memorial service for the Hon Paul Asquith was held yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry near Guildhall...

Birthdays today
Mr Neil Diamond, 40; Lord Duncan-Sandys, CH, 77; Mr Bamber Gascoigne, 50...

Birthdays today

Mr Neil Diamond, 40; Lord Duncan-Sandys, CH, 77; Mr Bamber Gascoigne, 50...

Latest wills

Mr Noel Kilpatrick Burtin, QC, of Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, died...

The Athenaeum

The Committee of The Athenaeum has under the provisions of rule 11 of the club's constitution...

Church news

The Rev J. M. Wade, vicar of St Andrew's Church, Northampton...

Bishop to retire

The Bishop of Coventry, The Right Rev John Gibbs, is to retire at the end of July...

Resignations and retirements

The Rev D. H. Bourne, vicar of Northampton...

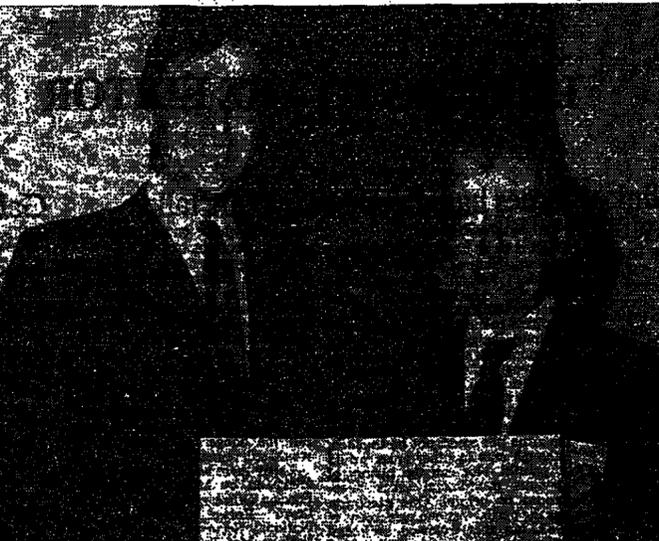
Latest appointments

Sir Bernard Braine to be Chancellor of the Order of St Lazarus...

Resignations and retirements

The Rev G. O. Dwyer, vicar of St Andrew's Church, Northampton...

Simpson's advertisement for a sale of clothing and accessories with 'FINAL DRASTIC REDUCTIONS'.



OBITUARY

SIR ARTHUR BRYANT

Historian of wide public appeal

Sir Arthur Bryant, CH, CBE, who died at Salisbury on January 22, at the age of 85, was a writer who did much to disseminate a knowledge of history among a wide reading public...

firm mastery of narrative: Not until ten years later did he publish the second volume, The Age of Chivalry (1963)...

The Duke of Westminster (left), chairman of the NSPCP centenary appeal, receiving a cheque for £543,000 from Mr Leslie Holliday...

Oxford University college awards

The following awards have been made by Oxford University colleges: ST CATERINE'S COLLEGE...

Luncheons

HM Government: Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs...

Dinners

British Academy of Film and Television Arts: Princess Anne, president, was the guest of honour at a dinner held yesterday...

Science report

Linking diet and delinquency: Scientific proof is a notoriously elusive commodity and few issues demonstrate this better than the effects of diet on behaviour...

MAHMOUD MUHAMMAD TAHA

Mahmoud Muhammad Taha, who was hanged in Khartoum on January 18, at the age of 76, was leader of the Republican Brothers (Akhwat al Jumhuriyyin)...

MISS JOSE SHERCLIFF

Miss Jose Shercliff who was The Times correspondent in Lisbon for 20 years, died in Cascais on January 21 at the age of 82...

J. M. BAZIN

James Michael Bazin, who died on January 9 at the age of 70, was a distinguished British pilot, and later bomber pilot...

Uncharted in the market

Perhaps the market's most interesting feature yesterday was the share index in the market's magic 1,000 on a day when knocking the percentage base intervention action was not bad when doldrums day who bought just...

Abbey N lifts home

The Abbey's second-earliest society, yesterday's increase in its 11,875 last of the big increases rates in the delay in societies were last week...

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, containing various text and graphics.

WALL STREET

Table of stock market data including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various sector indices.

Dow moves ahead

New York (AP) - Dow Jones - Shares were mostly higher in active early trading yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 1.10 points to 1,260.60.

Advancing issues held a 7-to-5 advantage over losers. Mr. Louis J. Rich, vice-president for trading at Morgan Stanley & Co., said: "The market direction clearly is up although we are seeing some profit taking."

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Rubber, Coffee, Sugar, Wheat, and other agricultural products.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table of money market rates and gold prices, including Treasury bills and gold futures.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including the British pound and the Japanese yen.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices, including three-month sterling and US treasury bonds.

APPOINTMENTS

Gardner Mountain & Capel-Cure Agencies: Mr. Michael C. Chambers is a director. Associated British Ports: Mr. D. R. George is to be company secretary.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts including various equity and income funds.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts including various investment and asset management funds.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various maturities.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various currencies.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table of other sterling rates for various international markets.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Large table of authorized unit trusts listing various investment vehicles and their performance.

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COMPANY NEWS

Continental Industrial Trust: Six months to 1984. Energy Resources and Services: Dividend \$0.15 for 1984. J. J. Gelfand: Results for half year to September 30, 1984.

RECENT ISSUES

Anglia, the independent television company, made pretax profits of £4.3 million last year. Plastic Constructions has entered into a conditional agreement for the acquisition of Industrias whose principal business is the distribution of semi-finished plastic.

Large advertisement for Tokai Bank, featuring the headline 'Obtaining a foothold in the Japanese market could prove highly rewarding' and 'Growth rate of UTA funds slow'.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Tokyo land prices may lure investors

By Judith Huntley

Obtaining a foothold in the Japanese market could prove highly rewarding

British property investors looking worldwide for good opportunities are finally waking up to the potential of Japan.

Confidence is such that investors are putting more money into Japanese gilts and equities.

The removal of exchange controls in Britain has boosted overseas investment.

For one thing it is difficult to obtain a foothold in the country.

98 per cent. Pre-fets are common.

Yields are at 3.5 per cent for top quality office investments in Tokyo compared with a 1 per cent yield on shares on the stock market.

There is a tradition of owner-occupation but renting space has now become commonplace in Tokyo.

Railway stations play an important part in determining good office locations.

Rents are now at the £35 a sq ft to £40 a sq ft level for good offices in Tokyo.

The Ginza, Tokyo: office rents are booming in the capital

property investment in Japan. It is capital appreciation through soaring prices for land, which is a far higher part of asset value than in the UK.

Mr Plummer sees the possibility of buying income-producing investments despite the fact that large areas of Japanese cities are owned by its massive corporations.

So far only one UK institution, the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund as it then was, has undertaken a property investment in Japan.

property swap with Mitsui the Japanese conglomerate. Freehold properties in London's St James's which went to Mitsui were valued at property in the Shinjuku area of Tokyo.

It was important for him not only to obtain a good investment but to set up a workable joint venture as well.

Jones Lang Wootton was the first British estate agent to set up a representative office in Tokyo.

overseas offices which get to hear of potential deals early on.

As a result of being in Tokyo, JLV is now being asked to arrange transactions there.

Mitsui and Nippon Life are among the companies which are approaching JLV, to undertake professional work such as valuations.

Richard Ellis is also looking at the property market in Tokyo. It does not as yet have an office there but has been keeping a close eye on the situation for some time.

And it is the connections which are the most difficult to set up. The property market is difficult to open and, as with other business, it takes a long time to get a foot in the door.

But for those who do, the rewards can be great and there are few signs that the Japanese economy will suffer from the kind of fluctuations that have hit the UK and the US.

TEMPUS

Battered Racal drops to 240p after profit blow

The Racal share price was in a shape to withstand the news fired at it by the company yesterday.

It is important to get the results in perspective. For many companies, a slip of £1 million to £2.1 million was unexpected and one of which is distinctly worrying.

The known and planned outflow was the cost of launching Vodaphone, the radical cellular telephone service.

But at this stage of that potentially exciting game shareholders can still regard those outflows as a form of investment in the future.

The letter of the surprises is that Racal-Milgo, Miami, the data communications business, has had a best-ever year for orders.

The serious disappointment, the savage downturn at Racal-Vadic, indicates how vulnerable the group can be to forces outside its control.

The consumer in the street is considerably more fickle than the consumer at the defence ministry - or, at least, the man from the ministry has to commit himself to larger orders.

than the consumer at the defence ministry - or, at least, the man from the ministry has to commit himself to larger orders.

The trouble is that such emphasis on the top line often indicates that the bottom line is going to be a tougher proposition.

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has been a difficult company to assess. Performance has often been distorted by property sales. The main thrust of the group's efforts will doubtless be in the consumer credit field.

As in the US, the British insurance market has been plagued by bad weather and an unusually high claims experience, particularly in housing and commercial lines.

Despite all this, the sector share price performance has not been bad. Starting the year with a sector price relative of around 53, it hit a peak of 59.6 in July and finished in December at 56.1.

For part of the year prices were certainly underpinned by takeover speculation. But, as a recent review of the sector by brokers Savory Millin puts it: "While 1984 was the year of the takeover, 1985 should be the year when the insurance cycle at long last turns up."

The benefits from this rerating are unlikely to show through in company profits until the end of this year or even into next year. Yet stock market sentiment in the US has already turned in favour of the insurance companies.

How long it will take the United Kingdom stock market to become as enthusiastic is anyone's guess, but stock-brokers are no longer afraid of sounding optimistic about the sector's prospects.

First National Finance Corporation

The fortunes of First National Finance Corporation over the last 12 years have been overshadowed by its unfortunate occupation of the Bank of England lifeboat, launched in 1973 to rescue casualties of the consumer credit crisis.

Yesterday's preliminary announcement showed pretax profits were up by £6 million to £17.6 million and revealed that the whole of the outstanding principal of the deferred loans had been repaid to the Support Group during the year.

Perhaps more encouraging than the borrowings position is the improved performance of the consumer credit division. A period where the miners strike is bound to have taken its toll profits still showed a substantial increase.

It is this improved quality of earnings which holds the key to FNFC's prospects. In the past it

IBM leads buoyant market in Basingstoke

The Hampshire office market was "exceptionally buoyant" last year and further lease lettings in Basingstoke are likely within the next few months.

Trusthouse Forte is investing £6 million in a new hotel in Milton Keynes in the first phase of the new town's Central Business Exchange development.

Management is to develop a £9 million high technology scheme at Heston, near Heathrow airport. The developer has bought the 3.72-acre site from British Airways for £2.1 million.

programme can do no harm before a launch which will enable the company to raise money for more development.

In the City the EC3 and EC4 districts saw most demand and Devonshire Square, Finsbury Square and Finsbury Avenue saw good lettings.

Growth rate of UTA funds slows

Funds managed by members of the Unit Trust Association rose 29 per cent last year from £11.6 billion to £15 billion, according to figures published yesterday by the UTA.

Oil concern leads index into 20.8 point slump

Shares slipped and slithered yesterday as confusion reigned over oil prices. After Tuesday's euphoria, which sent the FT 30 share index romping to a 1,024.5 points peak, the stock market looked completely demoralized.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares slipped and slithered yesterday as confusion reigned over oil prices. After Tuesday's euphoria, which sent the FT 30 share index romping to a 1,024.5 points peak, the stock market looked completely demoralized.

Traded option highlights

Activity on the London traded options market stayed high, with total contracts dealt in amounting 15,024.

Lookers plc

Car, truck and agricultural machinery dealers. Preliminary results for the year ended 30th September 1984 (unaudited).

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name and Rate. Includes ABN Bank (12%), Adam & Company (12%), Barclays (12%), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Turnover/Profit. Shows 1984 and 1983 figures for Lookers plc.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Turnover/Profit. Shows 1984 and 1983 figures for Lookers plc.

Advertisement for Jones Lang Wootton, a real estate and surveying firm.

Advertisement for Lookers plc, a car and agricultural machinery dealer.

Austin Rover hopes for surge in Japan

Austin Rover Japan is looking forward to a strong increase in sales with the prospect of a new model this year.

All foreign importers did well in the Japanese market last year but Austin Rover did better than most with a 25 per cent increase against an overall improvement for imports of 19 per cent.

Advertisement for Grosvenor Square, a restaurant and shop.

Advertisement for Lookers plc, a car and agricultural machinery dealer.

Advertisement for Lookers plc, a car and agricultural machinery dealer.

Advertisement for Lookers plc, a car and agricultural machinery dealer.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year sale or loss. Lists various companies like Park Foods, Merton (W), Normas, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total. Includes instructions on how to use the dividend.

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of British Funds with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, Div, Yield, P/E, Gross, Net.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table of funds with 5 to 15 year maturities, including columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, etc.

UNBATED

Table of unbalanced funds with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, etc.

BREWERIES

Table of brewery stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, etc.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table of bank discount rates with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares plunge

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 14, Dealings End, Jan 25, Contango Day, Jan 28, Settlement Day, Feb 4. \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Main stock exchange price table with multiple columns for company names, prices, changes, and various financial ratios. Includes sub-sections like BUILDING AND ROADS, FINANCE AND LAND, FOODS, CHEMICALS, PLASTICS, CINEMAS AND TV, DRAPERY AND STORES, HOTELS AND CATERERS, INDUSTRIALS, E-K, L-R, S-Z, INSURANCE, LEISURE, MINING, SHIPPING, SHOES AND LEATHER, TEXTILES, TOBACCO, OIL, OVERSEAS TRADERS, PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G, PROPERTY.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 Claims required for +27 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

RUGBY UNION Colclough plans a double return

Maurice Colclough, the former England lock, who broke a thigh in a County Championship match in November, is fit to play for Wasps in their John Player Cup match with Rosslyn Park at Sudbury on Saturday. This is also a London Merit Table match.



The Soviet skier Romanova (left) takes over from Wassolchenko and goes on to win the women's 4 x 5 km relay in the World Nordic Skiing Championships in Seefeld. Report, page 20

SKIING: SOVIET UNION WIN RELAY AT NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

TENNIS Noah's art sinks Mayer after storm

Philadelphia, (AP) - Yannick Noah, of France, the fifth seed, survived four match points in reaching the third round of the United States indoor championship on Tuesday night.

BADMINTON Butler has the gloss taken off his victory

Steve Butler, who was outstanding when England won the bronze medal in the Thomas Cup last year, achieved a rare victory over a Chinese player in the third of the Pro-Kennex world grand prix tournaments here yesterday.

BOXING Coddell on the Rocky road to title

Pat Coddell, the European super-featherweight champion, could be in sight of his second world title bout. Coddell will travel with Frank Warren, the promoter, to Riva del Garda in Italy this weekend in the hope of returning with the promise of a WBA title challenge against Rocky Lockridge, of the United States.



Coddell: revitalized

Football: Setback at Old Trafford as Atkinson seeks to settle a score

Manchester United's FA Cup plans suffered a setback yesterday with the news that their goalkeeper, Gary Bailey, was out of Saturday's fourth round tie against Coventry City. Bailey remained training this week after influenza forced him to miss United's last league game, ironically a 1-0 home defeat by Coventry City the first time he has missed a game this season.

Stalemate after a fierce battle

Even with Cadette Clark is down to a bare 14 players for the club's biggest match in years. He said: "I am not a fan of the Freight Rover Trophy tournament but I was pleased the players managed to get a game in. It is unfortunate with the injuries but that is a risk you take in every match."

SQUASH RACKETS Flying from the circus

There were moments during the quarter-finals of the Blue Stripes under-23 British open on Tuesday when the match between the Australians, Robertson and Nacarrow, mercifully ribbed the referee from the court, and the odds of private wagers in the gallery shifted almost point by point.

Bailey blow to United's Cup hopes

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Whiteside (left), awaiting a recall to Manchester United, and Bailey, out with a dislocated finger

Short straw day for all but Bale

Stuart Bale succeeded in winning a place in the semi-finals of the LTA men's satellite event at Peterborough with 6-4, 6-3 victories over Randy Vignoski, of the United States, yesterday, but both Robin Dwyer and Nick Fulwood were defeated.

Cup holders revived by Rafferty

Bourne, winners of the Associate Members' Cup, defeated Plymouth Argyle on Tuesday night after 72 seconds of their first round, first leg tie in the Freight Rover Trophy, as the competition is now known. But after conceding a second goal with 18 minutes to go, Rafferty's last-minute goal revived their hopes.

Wolves seek company of King

SC Cambour, the Dutch second division club, yesterday agreed to release Andy King, formerly with Everton. Jan Groninger, Cambour chairman, said: "We are very interested in King and have offered him a trial."

Devonshire set a strenuous seven-day test

West Ham are preparing to put Alan Devonshire, the England midfielder player, through a rigorous three-match, programme in seven days. He has not played since he badly damaged ligaments in a third-round cup-tie against Wigan a year ago and his come-back has been hampered by the recent bad weather.

No May until March

Barnsley will be without their central defender Larry May, for at least six weeks because of an unexpected cartilage operation. Bobby Collins, the Barnsley manager, said: "Larry went to see the specialist because he was having a bit of bother. I thought it would be something simple, but he has been kept in for more surgery to remove the cartilage."

Yesterday's results

- FA CUP: Third round replay: Arsenal 7, Haverhill United 2.
FREDERICK ROVER TROPHY: First round, Best 12: Northampton 2, Doncaster Rovers 0.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First round, Colchester 2, Walsley 1.

Priory draw strength

Edgbaston Priory have developed a fascinating technique for achieving narrow victories with seriously weakened teams in their first season of the Amex premier league (Colin McQuillan writes).

Richardson is close to a comeback

Kevin Richardson, the Everton midfielder player, is back in training and could play for the reserves next week. He has been out of action for three months following an operation on his toe injury.

Moser leads Italy to narrow win

Francesco Moser, the world one-hour record holder, led Italy to a victory over France in an indoor cycling competition on Tuesday. Moser, though, had to bow to Bernard Hinault, four-time winner of the Tour de France, in the "head-to-head" duels at the Berry Sport Palace.

Vying Dutch

The Hague (AFP) - The Dutch cycling federation is to apply to host the 1990 world road and track cycling championships. The Netherlands has announced the championships in 1979.

SNOW REPORTS table with columns for location, depth, snow, and weather.

La crème de la crème

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Challenging Computer Environment

We are looking for three experienced Secretaries/Administrators who, while possessing good secretarial skills, have plenty of energy, initiative and administrative ability, are independent and can cope with volume and priorities. We'd like you to be educated to at least A level. You should be interested in working in a computer environment, and similar experience would be preferred.

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You will mainly be involved in providing secretarial support to our Programming Manager, and administrative assistance in the running of the department.

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Working in the Software Development area, you will spend most of your time attending highly technical meetings and taking minutes. It is a job which will give you a lot of satisfaction, and also involvement in departmental administration.

Secretary/Administrator

Initially based in the City, you will move with our Computer Services Department (later this year) to a completely new site - part of the London Docklands Development Corporation scheme. Here, you will have control of all office administration together with your normal secretarial duties.

We're prepared to be flexible about salaries, which should attract good-calibre people. You will also receive an excellent benefits package which includes a fully-paid season ticket scheme, flextime and subsidised meals.

Interested? Then contact me in writing and let me know which job you prefer.

Ken Ross, Personnel Officer,
Settlement Services Division,
The Stock Exchange, 12 Broad
Street, London EC2N 1HP.



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Tell us about yourself on:

01-247 6931 (24 hr service)
or send a full C.V. to:
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181 Victoria Street
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There are particular vacancies in the West and North West London areas. Please quote Ref: T/FA

Personal Assistant

£8,781 - £9,339 pa inc

An opportunity for a well-qualified and experienced secretary with graduate status to provide administrative and personal secretarial support to an Assistant Director of one of the country's largest polytechnics.

The post reflects the Assistant Director's wide range of responsibilities, and involves the promotion of background studies and reports, high-level consultation and liaison, and the servicing of Governing Body and other committees.

A good working knowledge of higher education practice is desirable, together with adaptability, initiative and discretion.

Write enclosing a.s.a. (in 10 x 4in) and quoting ref 21089 for further details and an application form. Personnel Office, Middlesex Polytechnic, 114 Chase Side, London N14 9PL.

Closing date February 4.

Middlesex Polytechnic

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Chairman of international group of companies requires capable secretary/personal assistant. The successful applicant will be expected to work as part of a team to ensure the smooth running of his London office & to co-ordinate with personal staff in his other worldwide offices.

Applicants should have a minimum of 4 years experience in a similar capacity. This position would suit the 28-40 age group, who must be prepared to work flexible hours & would be an advantage if applicants are French speaking.

A high salary is offered (negotiable based on past experience) plus benefits including pension, life insurance, private medical care, overseas travel & use of car. CV together with a recent photograph (passport type) should be addressed to:

BOX 2275T THE TIMES

SECRETARY/PA

Required for the Chairman and Managing Director of a magazine publishing company. Good secretarial skills and initiative required as well as organising ability to handle the office administration.

SALARY c. £7,500

Please write enclosing CV to Julia Dodge,
The Publishing Company, 59 Gray's Inn Road,
London, WC1X 8BT.

Secretary Salary - to £7200

We need a young, self-motivated secretary to work in our Tax Training Department.

Duties include liaison with professional training bodies, typing course material, course administration and attendance.

You should be well-spoken with good secretarial skills and a minimum typing speed of 55 wpm.

Benefits include subsidised staff restaurant, season ticket loan scheme etc.

Please telephone Sally Killgren on 01-248 3913

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4Q 4JZ

SUPER SECRETARY W1

TO £10,000 pa

If you are a mature and efficient secretary (shorthand an advantage) who thrives on pressure and challenge, then this position is for you. The Senior Partner of a firm of Accountants in Oxford Circus, is seeking a PA who has the above qualities and in addition can accurately organise a charity function for over 200 people. So if you are such a paragon who wants to work hard, be appreciated and well paid, ring us now to arrange an interview.

JOAN TREE AGENCY
01-499 4945
25 South Molton Street, W1

OFFICE DESIGN CONSULTANCY

needs a second Secretary in their newly formed South Kensington offices. You should have excellent typing & a good telephone manner. Responsibilities will be varied and include the library & a simple computer work with navigation. Stylistic not essential. Salary and profit sharing.

Contact Penny Fitzsimon 899 2228

THE COSMETICS

Lowly surroundings, far from the glamour of the fashion world, this is a unique opportunity for a young woman to gain experience in a fast-paced, exciting environment. The successful candidate will be a mature, confident, and well-presented young woman with excellent secretarial skills and a good telephone manner. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of reports, correspondence, and the management of the company's public relations.

For more information, please contact: THE COSMETICS, 123, Regent Street, London, W1B 4LQ. Tel: 01-499 1234.

SEN. W.P. OPERATORS

Required by small W.P. Bureau providing Sc and W.P. Services (L.B.M. Display Units). List clear typists and 1 or 2 Press W.P. operators. Experience essential plus ability to cope under pressure, work-in and be part of hard working team. You will be a large sector in your own home, dealing directly with clients and managing your own workload.

Elaine Price,
Capital People - 01-240 3284
Rec. Cons.

Junior Secretary

Exciting opportunity with new, expanding insurance brokers in EC3 for bright, flexible junior secretary with good audio and some shorthand. Training given for w.o. 'A' level education preferred. Initially some general office duties, but good career opening for right candidate.

Salary c. £5,500 p.a. L.V.A.
Telephone: 01-488 1171
(No Agencies).

URGENTLY REQUIRED

for a large Italian company

1. INTELLIGENT P.A./ADMINISTRATOR to assist Director. Knowledge of Italian and bookkeeping necessary. Preferred age 30-35 years. Salary £9,300 + bonus.
2. SECRETARY with shorthand/typing and telex experience, for Transport Manager. Knowledge of Italian preferred. Age: 20-25 years. Salary: £8,000 + bonus.

Please send C.V., specifying post to:

Mr D. Panizzo
FIAT SpA
199 Knightsbridge
London SW7 1DE

SECRETARY/PA to Litigation Partner

We wish to recruit a PA/Secretary who is educated to at least 'A' level standard, with a high level of commitment to her/his work, to assist an international Litigation Partner.

The ability to organise, be forward-thinking and work under pressure is essential, as well as excellent secretarial skills (shorthand not necessary). An excellent salary and benefits package are offered. Please telephone Bernadette Willoughby, on 01-436 2442.

McKenna & Co

INVERKES HOUSE, 1 ALDWYCH, LONDON, WC2R 0HF (01-836 2442)

SECRETARY IN PERSONNEL

We are a prestigious international bank situated in the City and are seeking a Secretary to work in our Personnel Department.

Candidates should be aged 20-25, discreet, with good secretarial skills and a cheerful personality. Word processing experience is not essential as we will train on our own systems.

The position would suit a good 'second-jobber' who is flexible and who wants to be part of a busy team.

We offer a good remuneration package including mortgage subsidy, LV's and non-contributory pension.

Please write including a detailed c.v., stating current salary to: Box No. RTS 7, c/o Exel Advertising Ltd., Hazlitt House, 4 Boulevard Street, London EC4V 8AB.

AIR CALL

Air Call, one of the country's leading suppliers of communication services, has the following secretarial vacancies at its Head Office near Victoria.

Secretary to the Group Managing Director
Secretary to Divisional Head

Applicants must have excellent secretarial skills and experience of working at senior management level. Both positions require someone with the ability to work as a member of a team as well as being able to act on own initiative.

Please apply in writing enclosing detailed CV to Sue Cooke, Air Call plc, 176-184 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1 1DE.

CREATIVE RESEARCH £11,000

A high flying creative executive with his own successful and expanding management consultancy is looking for an assistant.

Your secretarial skills will be quick and accurate, but your main responsibility will be to help him with research and business development.

You will be aged 25-27, have a good degree, four years experience in a client oriented business, be quick to take up ideas, competent to follow through on your own and efficiently communicate your results. You will enjoy pressure and take a practical approach to your career for which this job offers plenty of scope.

Stokes 100/90,
Telephone 629 9686
WEST END OFFICE
ANGELA MORTIMER

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY/PA

For Chief Executive of the Squash Racquets Association to work in the busy yet congenial Victoria offices of a major sporting body. Salary in the range £7,500 to £9,500 according to experience plus additional benefits. Applications with CV to Personnel Officer, SRA, Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DE

INTERESTED IN THE ARTS TO £7,000

A small charitable organization, promoters of major Arts events seeks a Secretary to help in the day to day running of the organization. The successful candidate should have an interest in music and the arts in general and be keen to use her initiative and work with a minimum of supervision. 100/65 skills needed.

01-236 3712 City
01-499 8070 West End
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONNEL SECRETARY £10,000 P.A.

Exciting well earned, 'A' level secretarial/PA. aged 25-35. General Personnel Director for large city bank. Must have initiative and a good telephone manner. Good secretarial skills including shorthand, audio, telex, word processing, etc. Salary £10,000 p.a. L.V.A. + bonus. Please call 434 4512

Crone Corkill

99 Regent St, London, W1

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A very exciting career as Sales Assistant of a prestigious financial group. Confidence, energy, the desire to why and the ability to respond to the challenge of a vigorous training programme are the qualities we are seeking.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

working for the Chief Engineer and Divisional Manager, Facilities. Duties will include providing a full secretarial service, supervision and co-ordination of junior secretarial staff and a variety of other office duties. Applicants should be able to demonstrate initiative, discretion and the ability to work under pressure. A salary of £8,000 is offered and other benefits include contributory pension scheme and free life assurance. Applications in strict confidence to:

Bill Faulkner, Personnel Officer,
VISNEWS LIMITED,
Cumberland Avenue, London, NW10, 7EH

Telephone: 01-855 7739

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20's/30's
Secretary required by solicitors to administer trust and estates. The successful applicant will be required to work under supervision. Interesting position for highly numerate person with an 'A' level or two, who is looking for more than endless dictation. Hours 9-5. Four weeks holiday. Write with C.V. to: P. L. MIDDLE,
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Super Secretaries

INDUSTRY YEAR 1986 SECRETARY TO THE PROJECT TEAM

Industry Year 1986 initiated by the Royal Society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures and commerce requires a secretary to the project team for a 2 year assignment. Applicants should have shorthand or audio skills, a good telephone manner and will be trained to use word processor/computer. An unusual opportunity to be involved in an exciting project. Please write to: Diana McShane, Assistant Director, INDUSTRY YEAR 1986, 8 John Adams Street, London WC2N 6EZ. Salary £6,600 to £7,000. Lunchbox vouchers and 5 weeks holiday.

FRENCH BILINGUAL SECRETARY

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Reply to Personnel,
L.D.C. Ltd, 86 Hatton Garden, London EC1.
(No agencies)

UNITED MEDICAL DENTAL SCHOOLS SECRETARY TO PROFESSOR

Requires good organisational, shorthand/typing & WP skills, to help with a variety of work, including arranging meetings, library search and editing letters. It would be helpful if you are able to deal effectively with patients, staff and students. Pleasant office, good facilities for swimming, squash, badminton etc. Salary in range £5,938 to £8,967 P.A., including London weighting, plus allowances up to £475 p.a. for special skills. Applications including CV & names of 2 referees to the Staffing Officer, Guy's Hospital Medical School, GUYM/27.

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

To act consultant, based in Knightsbridge. Sound secretarial knowledge essential combined with simple book-keeping. 25-40 hrs by negotiation.

TEL: 581 8918

SECRETARY

required for busy office in Knightsbridge. Good secretarial skills essential, confident telephone manner and willingness to be involved in all aspects of office work.

Age 20-24, salary £7,000.
Tel: MISS BROAD
01-586 9882

RECEPTIONISTS

£5,000-£7,000
Well spoken, preferably experienced receptionists, for top class office. Salary in range £5,000 to £7,000 p.a. L.V.A. + bonus. Please call 434 4512

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

£7,000-£7,500
One client a holding company requires a well presented person to act as a receptionist/telephonist in the City. The successful candidate will be a mature, confident, well-presented young woman with excellent secretarial skills and a good telephone manner. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of reports, correspondence, and the management of the company's public relations.

SHIPPING COMPANY

£7,000-£7,500
A well presented person to act as a receptionist/telephonist in the City. The successful candidate will be a mature, confident, well-presented young woman with excellent secretarial skills and a good telephone manner. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of reports, correspondence, and the management of the company's public relations.

Continued from page 23

SECRETARY / P.A.

Secretary/P.A. to Director of an expanding Development Company involved in the restoration and conversion of old buildings and several well known docklands regeneration schemes. We need someone with the experience, skills and motivation to work in a demanding environment, as a member of a small team of friendly hard working people.

Accurate, fast typing, minimum 100/60 wpm, and a high level of organisational ability are essential. Book keeping experience an advantage. The successful candidate will be a mature, confident, well-presented young woman with excellent secretarial skills and a good telephone manner. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of reports, correspondence, and the management of the company's public relations.

Write enclosing a.s.a. (in 10 x 4in) and quoting ref 21089 for further details and an application form. Personnel Office, Middlesex Polytechnic, 114 Chase Side, London N14 9PL.

Closing date February 4.

Middlesex Polytechnic

Young Entrepreneur seeks PA in Central London

Must have secretarial and book-keeping experience. Freedom to travel and to work flexible hours an advantage. Top salary envisaged.

01-839 4791

SECRETARY/PA

£7,500 +
Small software company needs an energetic Secretary to become an important member of a highly motivated team. You should be lively, organized, skilled at communicating, have some WP exp and possibly have worked in the computer industry.

Please apply in writing together with CV to Strategic Applications Software Ltd, c/o The Stock Exchange, 12 Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

American geological consultants located in pleasant offices in Richmond, seek a well qualified person to fill the position of Secretary to the Chairman and Accounting Assistant. First class secretarial skills, accuracy and a good telephone manner are sought, with a minimum of 5 years commercial experience. Car driver preferable. Salary negotiable.

Please write enclosing resume to Box 2050 Y The Times.

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We are looking for a rare commodity an accomplished Secretary with extensive experience in an Architectural/Interior Design studio to join our Covent Garden premises.

You will need to be resilient, alert, numerate, non smoking and have excellent typing and shorthand skills.

Reward at least £8,000 p.a., 4 weeks holiday and a busy, happy working atmosphere.

Please write with C.V. to R. Mansfield, 49 Wellington Street, London WC2.

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Write to: The Grosvenor Bureau, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EE. Tel: 01-499 8866 (daytime) 01-738 3768 (evenings)

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You're an effective, results orientated marketing professional keen to use your flair and commitment in a challenging management role within a growth industry.

Our client is the Insurance Division of a major service group with an impressive track record of success and growth. Ambitious to further exploit opportunities in this area, they now wish to recruit a Marketing Manager who will plan, develop and control marketing strategy for insurance products.

Key areas are the formulation of the divisional marketing plan, implementation of direct marketing campaigns, promotional retail marketing strategies, monitoring and evaluation of results, budgeting for and controlling marketing expenditure and ensuring marketing awareness throughout management.

Candidates should be able to display a creative and energetic approach to marketing and a successful track record in the field of consumer financial services. There is tremendous scope for future career progression.

In addition to salary, fringe benefits are those you would expect of a progressive market leader and include a fully expensed company car and an excellent relocation package. Please telephone, or write briefly, for personal history form quoting ref: TM 1136 to Jonathan Hedges.

Management Personnel
Recruitment Selection & Search
Shaw House, 2 Tunsgate, Guildford, Surrey.
Telephone: (0483) 65566 (Out of hours 02514 8271)

Manager of Personnel

Multinational

Hughes Tool Company in London solicits enquiries from professionals capable of establishing policies for its European, Middle East and African operations.

More specifically, we require demonstrated ability to develop and implement compensation, recruitment, staff development and other administrative practices and procedures that cut across national boundaries.

To qualify, you must be an administrator who is experienced in formulating and articulating personnel policies. You should be familiar with various customs and local laws and have a background in multinational labour negotiations. You will be based in London, and

will report directly to the managing director of the division. Must be willing to travel. High level interviews will be conducted in London in the near future.

Other qualifications sought: at least 10 years of experience in Personnel Administration, and preferably a background in oil production or services industry. Compensation will be appropriate to credentials, and administrative and geographical scope.

For entirely confidential consideration, and top management briefing, please send us your resume and salary requirements. Promptly Write: The Secretary, Hughes Tool Company, Ltd., 8 St. James's Square, London, SW1Y 4JU.



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We are an old established and well respected Recruitment Consultancy looking to capitalise on our existing business in the recruitment of Microwave Engineers and to expand it much further into other areas of electronically based high technology.

The Consultant we are looking for will have experience of sales or marketing computers, communications, or microwave engineering technology or will be a successful specialist Recruitment Consultant. In either case, a broad knowledge of the electronics industry is essential.

This is an excellent opportunity for a specialist Consultant to join at a crucial stage in the development of our high technology division. We believe in a high standard of back-up facility to enable Consultants to optimise achievement.

Salary, which will include a profit related bonus, is negotiable.

Please write with full career details, to Richard Coot, Managing Director.

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Management Recruitment Consultants



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Systems Development Finance

C. London

c. £18,000 + car loan + other benefits

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Longer term career prospects are excellent and relocation expenses are available.

Contact Patrick Donnelly on 01-222 5169 quoting ref. ST/53



The Finance Index
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KENTINA

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We are a major onshore drilling company operating 9 land rigs in the UK and Continental Europe, and are currently seeking an enthusiastic Senior Drilling Instructor to be based in our European headquarters in the Nottingham area.

The successful applicant must have a minimum 10 years experience with a drilling contractor operating oil and gas deep land drilling rigs and must have worked on a drilling rig at least to the position of Driller to gain practical "hands-on" experience. Additionally, should have experience in the industry specifically involved with safety and training and must have at least attained the position of Senior Drilling Instructor. At minimum applicant should have a University degree and be qualified to teach Well Control, Casing and Cementing, Drilling Operations and Techniques, Drilling Calculations, Advanced Rig Crew, Introduction to Drilling Equipment and Practices, Fork Lift Trucks and Abrasive Grinding Wheels.

The applicant must be prepared to transfer to one of our subsidiaries in America or Canada after a minimum of 2 years within our own Division in the UK. This is a permanent position offering a salary commensurate with qualifications, including a car and contributory pension scheme.

It should be stressed that only candidates conforming to all the above qualifications should apply by submitting a full CV in the first instance to: Anne Murray, Personnel Manager, KENTINA DRILLING SERVICES LIMITED, Trent Lane, Castle Donington, Derby.

Applications will be considered in the strictest confidence.

REPORTERS

RADIO OXFORD (Ref. 3897/T)

RADIO NEWCASTLE

Based Sunderland (Ref. 3886/T)

Are you a young ambitious reporter with at least three years' journalistic experience? If so we have vacancies that may interest you. The work is primarily reporting, interviewing, bulletin writing and news-reading. Good microphone voice and current driving licence, essential.

Salary £8,038 - £9,552 plus allowance of £537 p.a.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote relevant ref. and enclose s.a.e.): BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5799.

We are an equal opportunities employer



Marketing Executive

OCTOPUS BOOKS LIMITED

As a result of our worldwide growth, we are looking to recruit a young MARKETING EXECUTIVE. The position will involve working closely with our senior sales and marketing management in planning and organising presentations to our major accounts who include most of the leading High Street multiples, and assisting in the provision of a complete marketing back up service to these customers.

This position is a tremendous opportunity for an ambitious executive to join the marketing team of the fastest growing publishing company in the UK. There are considerable career opportunities within the company and the position offers an attractive salary, company car, profit sharing and other benefits.

Please apply in writing enclosing a detailed CV to:

The Managing Director
Octopus Books Limited
59 Grosvenor Street,
London W1

Jane Churchill Limited

GENERAL MANAGER

Jane Churchill Ltd. is developing a network of retail shops selling fabric, wallpaper and a complete range of other home furnishing products. We require a general manager to assist in this expansion from the outset.

Applicants must have sound experience at a senior level in the retail sector to co-ordinate the opening and initial establishment of new branches, specialised knowledge in Stock Control and staff recruitment and management plus a working knowledge of accounting.

An attractive salary, car and other benefits will be provided. Rapid growth is planned and future prospects are excellent.

Please write, enclosing a detailed C.V. to Jane Churchill Limited, 16 Holbein Place, London S.W.1.

CITY OF LONDON

Commissioner of Police

The Corporation of London invites applications for the Office of Commissioner of Police.

The Appointment is subject to the approval of H.M. The Queen.

Particulars of the duties and conditions attaching to the Office may be obtained from the Town Clerk, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ (Ref: SP/POL/STF) and applications with the names of three referees must be received by him not later than 15th February 1985.

G. W. Rowley
Town Clerk

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

You have, no doubt, seen vacancies for Financial Management Consultants and have, perhaps, wondered what exactly this entails.

In a lot of cases it means selling life assurance, pensions, and investment plans. However, at Allied Hambro Financial Management it means a lot more.

As one of the country's largest financial institutions, we are in a unique position to offer our clients a complete integral range of financial services including portfolio management and banking services. Consequently we require people of integrity to train for a career in this wider sphere of financial management consultancy.

As we spend over £2 million p.a. on our training programme, we are not so much concerned with your background, as with a successful track record, and above average ability to communicate, and a determination to succeed.

We consider well trained, totally professional people crucial to the future of our business.

Dial 100 today and ask for "FREEPHONE ACHIEVEMENT" and speak personally to one of our branch management team in major towns and cities throughout the UK.



Frenchay Health Authority

District General Manager

FRENCHAY HEALTH AUTHORITY has recently interviewed candidates from the National Health Service and from industry for this important post. No appointment was made and applications are again invited from those who feel that they have the management skills and abilities to lead this District and its staff of over 5,000 into the period of challenge and change which lies ahead.

THE AUTHORITY is responsible for the provision of health care for a population in excess of 200,000 in North East Bristol and the rural district adjoining. The Revenue Budget for the year ending March 1985 is £48 million and Capital Expenditure is £4.3 million.

The District General Manager will be expected to give imaginative and enthusiastic leadership in achieving optimum levels of health care within the resources available. Candidates will, therefore, have to show a proven record of ability in the dynamic management of change and handling of large budgets within a major organisation in either the private or public sector. A responsive and decisive management style will be required, directed to the achievement of the Authority's objectives.

The appointment, which will be of interest to candidates at present earning in excess of £23,000, will be for an initial three year fixed term, renewable by mutual agreement. The salary will be negotiable.

A package of further information may be obtained from Mr. Charles Hay, District Personnel Officer at the address below. Candidates should address applications, which should include a full description of present managerial responsibilities, detailed curriculum vitae and names of three referees, to the Chairman, Mrs. Barbara Young, Frenchay Health Authority, District Headquarters, Beckford Road, Frenchay Common, Bristol, BS16 1ND. Applications should be marked "Confidential, District General Manager Appointment". The closing date will be 12th February, 1985.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer

Project Manager/Assistant Project Manager/Architects/Landscape Architect/Structural Engineers/Public Health Engineers/Interior Designer/Mechanical Engineers/Electrical Engineer (Power)/Electrical Engineers (Facilities)Material Testing Engineer/Laboratories Technician

Project manager and Assistant may be Architect or Civil Engineer and must have 15 & 12 years of experience respectively. All others 10 years experience.

Please apply in writing with CV indicating team applied for to:
DESIGNWORKS,
84 Cheviot Gardens, London, NW2 1QA
ONLY SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED

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Up to £11,000 p.a. Central London

An established and successful china and glass retail house requires a strong and experienced Manager (male or female) to organise and control its showrooms. Whilst appropriate experience in the industry is desirable formal management training and the ability to organise, discipline and motivate staff to maintain traditionally high standards of efficiency and customer service is of paramount importance. This is a key position in which successful performance can lead to high rewards. The salary is negotiable up to £11,000 plus a good benefits package.

Applications in confidence, to Bernard L. Taylor MBIM, quoting Ref. 6744.
Mervyn Hughes Alexandre Tic (International) Ltd.,
Management Recruitment Consultants,
37 Golden Square, London W1R 4AN
Telephone 01-434 4091

Personnel/Office Management

Could you handle this unique role in one of the few public relations consultancies that is determined to develop the personnel function?

We would like to hear from people who have experience in general office management and in personnel recruitment, legislation, training and development. A knowledge of office technology is also required - we are equipped with the latest, including Wang automation, and are always open to new ideas. If part of your career has been spent in the communications industry, you would have a distinct advantage.

We are located in the West End of London. Salary is negotiable and the position carries four weeks holidays, PPP and life assurance. Write with CV, indicating current salary level, to Box 2280 T, The Times.

Scottish Trade Centre at Trafalgar Square

is looking for a Senior Word Processor with WANG experience and knowledge of glossary writing, preferably with supervisory skills, to take charge of their consumer goods and Exhibition Information Systems.

The person would enjoy a variety of responsibilities including client liaison and the organisation of exhibitions. A marketing background would be advantageous.

Applicants must have a high standard of education and be career orientated. Salary is dependant on age and experience.

Applications, including a detailed CV, should be sent to: Patricia Berry, Scottish Trade Centre, 19 Cockspur St, London, SW1Y 5BL, no later than 31st January. Tel: 01-539 4777.

DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S COUNTRY HOLIDAYS FUND

The Children's Country Holidays Fund, founded in 1884 sends away 3,000 children from the Greater London area for a 2 week holiday each year to the country in July and August.

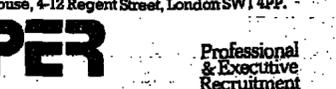
We wish to appoint a director aged probably between 35 and 50 to head a small team based at our headquarters in York Street, London W1. Candidates must have a record of proven administration together with an understanding of working with voluntary helpers. Salary approx £12,500 plus 5 weeks holiday.

Please reply to The Earl of Arran, Crocker End House, Nettlebed, Oxon.

Head of Secretarial Department

£12,500 City

A well-established City-based Chartered Accountancy firm, with a reputation for its highly personal service, needs a successor to the Secretary who retired recently. Reporting to the Staff Partner, your two-fold role will include the provision of a full secretarial/administrative service plus total responsibility for building and office services management, with clerical support. The appointment will suit candidates 40+ with extensive Secretarial experience, ideally MICA, but with administrative flair being of higher priority. An attractive package includes a salary of £12,500 with other benefits. Please forward a full CV to Lisa Grant, PER, Rox House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1 4PP.



MARKET RESEARCH

Business International, a worldwide business information service company, seeks a Senior Research professional for its London office to:

conduct single and multi-client studies covering industrial and/or consumer markets in Western Europe; counsel clients on market development; assist in the development of research activities.

Solid experience in market research is essential as is a firm command of English and at least one other major European language. Send CV to: MR EMIL BASCHONGA, Vice-President Research, BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL, Banda House, Cambridge Grove, London, W6 0LE

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

We have worldwide profitable and diverse interests. The businesses are successful and expanding rapidly. You will be joining a team which is sufficiently small and perceptive to instantly identify your successes or failures. So if you have any doubts about your ability to deliver, read no further. Continuing, you will take with our partners worldwide and deal with bankers and government agencies at the highest levels.

Crucially you will need to have or at least comprehend the needs of a private and strongly entrepreneurial ownership. The position is based between Brussels, London and other locations. Substantial travel may be involved. An exceptional package is available to the person able to demonstrate the requisite contribution. Starting immediately. Ref KQ. Box 1211 T The Times

MANAGER/MANAGERESS

For small (9 bedroomed) sporting lodge/Hotel on Highland Sporting Estate. Applicants must have relevant hotel management experience, secretarial skills and driving licence. Good terms and excellent in-house full board accommodation offered. Please apply in writing with full details to: T. J. Kirkwood Esq., Struan, Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire, Scotland.

TREASURER - BRUSSELS

International Group with Brussels HQ seeks commercially minded Treasurer with a proven track record in an international environment. Varied work provides unusual job satisfaction + excellent terms. An immediate start is envisaged. Age 35-45. Apply with full details to Box 0831 L The Times.

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development
Taking the pain out of strain

Stress and anxiety seem to be the plague of modern society. The pharmaceutical industry has certainly found it one of the most profitable illnesses...

Ron Lacey suggests some possible solutions to the modern plague, stress

Valium, the best-known tranquiliser, has been the most profitable drug in the entire history of medicine, so much so that Valium has become the status of the every-day word for tranquilisers...

In 1981 there were more than 28 million prescriptions for minor tranquilisers written by NHS doctors in Britain...

Professor Malcolm Lader of the Institute of Psychiatry estimates that about 1 1/2 per cent of the adult population are long-term users of minor tranquilisers...

Minor tranquilisers may be counter-productive

These are worrying figures indeed for drugs which are now known to have serious side-effects and the potential to create dependency and addiction...

Research published last year in the British Medical Journal has shown that patients on minor tranquilisers are almost five times more likely to be involved in accidents than other patients being treated by their doctors...

Using minor tranquilisers to cope with stress at work may not only be counter-productive but may also be actively dangerous...

A particularly high-risk group are those people who take tranquilisers and who consume alcohol during their working day...

To take a driving test under the influence of these drugs is not only unwise, it could also be dangerous. People who operate machinery in the course of their work may be particularly prone to mistakes or accidents...

People who have been taking tranquilisers for more than three or four months, even at prescribed doses, may not only have ceased to have gained any benefit but may also experience severe problems if they attempt to stop taking them...

Those who have been using tranquilisers for any length of time should exercise caution about stopping them. Ideally, withdrawal from tranquilisers should be done under close medical supervision...

Generally, the best available rule of thumb is "slowly does it". Some people have gradually reduced the doses they take by cutting out half a tablet during a week or fortnight...

Many people will find that cutting out tranquilisers may require them to face up to the problem in their lives which led them to tranquilisers in the first place...

Of course stress is a major factor in modern life which in itself can reduce our capacity to work efficiently considerably. A 1977 MORI survey reported that 12 per cent of the country's work force had taken time off work in the previous year with some form of mental strain...

Stress arises from life events which may not be connected with work but it affects our working efficiency. For some people the principle cause of stress in their lives may be directly linked to the nature of their work...

The problems of personal and working life

Stress causes or contributes to a wide range of health problems ranging from heart disease, to ulcers and certain types of cancer. It is clearly an important factor related to cigarette-smoking and alcohol abuse...

Each of us needs to take our health and well-being more seriously. More employers need to recognize the real cost of stress to themselves and to their employees...

The author is Campaign Director for Mind (National Association for Mental Health) and co-author (with Sean Woodward) of The That's Life! Guide To Tranquillisers (BBC, £2.95).

INVESTMENT BANK GRADUATE TRAINEE

For client needs a well motivated young graduate aged 22-25 to train for a management position within 2 years in their rapidly expanding investment department...

Small executive HOTEL in Nottingham requires responsible person for reception work. Hotel experience not necessary but must be energetic and capable of working accurately under pressure...

SALES MANAGER

Required for expanding polypropylene (PP) company in Sussex. Must be well connected in DIY sector. Remuneration, basic salary and generous commission for on-budget sales performance...

Greek Speaking Hotel Manager. Immediate vacancy in Greece. Must be speaking English and Greek. Must be well connected in the hotel industry...

Tales of the Unexpected. Unusual career opportunity for three trainee brokers within major UK brokerage - for full details contact John Gibburn-Toppin...

NEGOTIATOR. With experience, required in furnished lettings department of Mayfair agency. Salary plus commission. Driver preferred.

General Appointments

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE - OPPORTUNITIES IN WEST GERMANY

RAILWAY LIAISON AND ADVISORY OFFICER, BAOR

This post, based at Hanover, carries responsibility for liaison between the British Forces and Government Departments, Civil Authorities and Railway Administrators (public and private) and Western European nations on railway matters...

requirements for moving British military personnel and material by rail; have a knowledge of German, preferably to honours degree standard or its equivalent; and be prepared to undertake substantial travelling in Europe...

INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS (ARMY DEPARTMENT)

Three posts involving liaison with local security authorities, investigation work and interviews, maintenance of records, preparation of reports, and written translation from German into English.

Civil Service Commission interpretation, or an equivalent qualification in German, a general knowledge of military organisation, and experience in one of the Services, preferably in intelligence or security duties...

Candidates must have a good general education (preferably to at least GCE 'A' level standard), a capacity for clear and concise expression in English, and competence in spoken and written German.

Salary: £11,780-£14,440 plus a Foreign Service Allowance. Ref: G/6434.

For further details and application forms (to be returned by 15 February 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551.

schemes, please ask for, and complete, a separate application for each. Please quote the appropriate reference(s).

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

MANAGING DIRECTOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONSULTANCY c £40,000 plus benefits

JAMES MARTIN ASSOCIATES are planning the launch of an information engineering work-bench and a series of software products which will help revolutionise the way computer systems are developed...

- experience in managing a Consultancy Company/Division;
proven sales ability at the highest level;
excellent people management skills;
experience with fourth generation technology;
financial management experience;
a history of success in the computer industry.

JAMES MARTIN ASSOCIATES are a group of international companies with offices in ten countries. The group offers services in consulting, education and product sales.

We are prepared to offer a comprehensive financial package which includes bonus and share schemes, company car, pension, life assurance, private medicine and the possibility of a main board position in the longer term.

Please reply in writing to: A J T Carter, James Martin Associates, Spa House, 11/17 Worple Road, London, SW19 4JS.

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Company Secretary - Designate

West Yorkshire to £22,500 + car

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This new appointment - as Assistant Company Secretary in the first instance - arises due to the pending retirement of the present incumbent in Autumn 1986. Promotion will not be automatic, however, but will depend on achievement over the next 18 months.

Candidates - aged 35 to 45 - will be educated to degree level and/or hold an appropriate professional qualification. Significant experience of the functions - including credit control - in a competitive environment such as the construction industry is essential.

Salary is for discussion and the benefits package will include relocation expenses, where appropriate, to a most attractive location on the edge of the Yorkshire dales.

Please write - in confidence - will full details to A.L. Brown ref. A.62030.

This appointment is open to men and women

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REGIONAL BUILDING DIRECTOR

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Bovis Homes (South East) covers an area from Norfolk to Dorset and has a projected turnover in excess of £75 million for 1985, building on over fifty sites.

The person appointed will join a successful management team and is expected to contribute towards further expansion with particular emphasis upon increased profits and return on capital employed.

Reporting to the Managing Director, the successful candidate will be responsible for the entire building operation. Applicants must have extensive management experience, particularly of forward planning. They must also be cost-conscious, display positive leadership and be able to motivate and control others.

The position is based at our offices in Kent but will involve regular travelling throughout the region.

A full C.V. is required (in confidence) to: Mr. M. R. Harris, Managing Director, BOVIS HOMES LIMITED, South East Region, Ash House, New Ash Green, Kent, DA3 8JD.

Be selective choose Bovis Bovis Homes Division A member of the P&O Group

GENERAL TRADER

A large international group with an office in London responsible for the International Trading of the Group in expanding its activities and looking for a general trader.

The appointment requires a person with commercial experience in trading, knowledge in documentation and a minimum of 5 years' experience in general trading.

Candidates should be under the age of 40 and educated to 'A' level. A degree of professional qualification with knowledge of a foreign language would be an advantage.

GENERAL MANAGER (DIRECTOR DESIGNATE)

Our client is a well established furniture retailer based in East Berkshire and trading in the Thames Valley area, at present from three main stores and two stores specialising in fitted kitchens and bedrooms.

Reporting to the Board, the General Manager (Director Designate) will play a leading part in steering our client's company to expansion through new store development and the planning, implementation and control of efficient retail business systems to ensure growth and future profitability.

The General Manager will also be responsible for the day-to-day management and planning of our client's company, involving all aspects of marketing, sales and merchandising co-ordination.

The ideal candidate will be aged 35-45 and will be a proven professional with an impressive track record in the retail sector. Furniture experience, whilst an advantage, is not essential.

A sound analytical mind combined with confidence to deal with problems at Board level as well as an ability to identify and develop new market opportunities is essential.

The salary package will reflect your experience, qualification, and the importance of this appointment.

Please write with full CV to: Mr Nigel Dodd, FCA, Hensley Miller & Co, Old Telephone Exchange, Kingsway, Farnham Common, Slough, Berks, SL2 3ST. Telephone: 02814 5446.

Research Analyst

£10,000 +

We have recently formed a Research Unit whose on-going function will be to analyse the market offered by The Stock Exchange. It will also seek to identify areas of improvement leading to greater ease and effectiveness of transactions both on and off the 'Floor'.

As the unit is in its infancy, there is an excellent opportunity for someone of graduate calibre, and capable of creative thinking, to inject their own ideas into work which is still in the earliest stages of development.

You should be in your mid-20s with a degree level of education - Economics, Statistics or similar. You will have experience of working in a financial environment, ideally with an appreciation of the securities industry.

Numeracy and good communication skills, particularly written, are essential. Salaries are currently under review, and the benefits package includes free travel, non-contributory pension scheme, BUPA and lunches.

If you wish to broaden your experience in a 'green fields' environment, please send your cv to Jennifer Gregson, Senior Personnel Officer, The Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.

The Stock Exchange

Field Managers London

Our expanding team of ten are based in Covent Garden, W.C.2. and are responsible for door-to-door distribution all over the London area. No selling is involved.

There are lots of different people to deal with, budgets to maintain and deadlines to meet: You'll find the work varied, strenuous and rewarding.

We are looking for 3 people, aged 22-32 to join our team who can communicate well at all levels, feel comfortable working by telephone, have plenty of organisational flair and team spirit, an excellent sense of humour and lots of commonsense.

You will probably have gained 2-3 years administrative experience in a people-orientated business since "A" levels or University and be ready to move into a responsible management role.

Personality is more important than formal qualifications or work experience.

We are offering you an excellent package which will include a company car, circa £10,000 (including performance related bonuses), Private Health Insurance and 4 weeks holiday annually.

Please reply enclosing a C.V. to Box 2921 Y The Times

SULTANATE OF OMAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

EDP Senior Internal Auditor

c. £26,400*

*at current rate of exchange, (plus a 20% terminal bonus of all emoluments paid)

Our client the Ministry of Defence, Oman, have a current vacancy for a Computer professional with a strong accountancy background, to assume responsibility for the development of the EDP Internal Audit function within the MOD.

You should have a knowledge and experience of modern internal audit practices, plus recent experience of on-line systems and of using an information Retrieval package in an on-line configuration. In addition, you will be required to design and develop controls in systems and acceptance of commissioning and acceptance of turnkey computer applications.

This position will be on unaccompanied status. Benefits are excellent and include 60 days leave per annum with three return flights to the U.K. Accommodation is provided with good sports and recreational facilities. Contracts are for two years renewable thereafter by mutual agreement.

For an application form and further information, please telephone Helen Griffin, ARA International, 17, 19 Maddox Street, London W1R 0EY. Tel: 01-408 1010 (Agy).

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